

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, February 8, 2002

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**Inside** Columnist does battle with Captain Underpants [A3]

**Theater** Sisters rule in East Bay productions [C3]

## Slow economy stalls project

■ The developer says that while the Mill & Lumber project will proceed, it will have to be retooled and the start of work delayed

By Kate Darby Rauch  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — If all had gone according to plan, bulldozers would be scooping up dirt and knocking down buildings right about now.

But as anyone who has driven down San Pablo Avenue here lately can see, nothing new is happening at the former El Cerrito Mill & Lumber.

The once-bustling cluster of buildings is as vacant as it's been for the past year. But there are no signs of the major upscale housing project slated for the property.

What's happening to the Mill and Lumber project is happening all over the Bay Area, said developer John Baer of San Carlos, who won city approval for the 158-unit project last year after months of meetings, presentations and regroupings.

It's simply the economy, Baer said.

"This is a necessary delay for cost consideration. We have to examine each and every item of our costs," said Baer, who specializes in urban infill housing

projects throughout the Bay Area.

When Baer and his partners conceived of the top-quality apartment project Bay Area rents were soaring to all time highs. At the same time, the rental market was a landlord's dream: notoriously tight, with more renters than available properties.

Close to two BART stations and in a quiet residential area, the Mill and Lumber site seemed perfect for luxury apartments, Baer thought.

Then the bust.

Rental rates have dropped about 20 percent in the East Bay in the past year, and the vacancy rate has jumped, Baer said.

The switch has forced him to

### INSIDE

■ Workshop set tomorrow on development seeking input on development ideas for El Cerrito Del Norte area. Page A10

go back to the dollar and cents drawing board for the project, delaying construction by six months to a year, he said.

"Clearly the economics are predicated on how much you're going to spend to build relative to how much you're going to get in rents," he said.

"But this isn't a derailment.

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## State deficit could mean budget woes for Albany

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — City leaders are concerned about the state taking revenue away from Albany, as a result of a \$14 billion deficit in the state budget.

If the state takes money from cities, Albany may have to lay off workers and cut programs, said City Administrator Beth Pollard.

"It's a huge cut for the city of Albany," said Pollard. "Any cut for the city of Albany is going to be hard because we have an extremely tight budget."

State officials are looking for local government funds that can be shifted to the state, said Pollard, particularly vehicle license fees.

Cities receive a portion of license fees paid by owners of motor vehicles. When vehicle license fees were reduced in 1999 as the result of a tax cut, the state decided there were enough state funds to give to cities to make up for that reduction.

Now that the state is looking at a deficit, it's considering not giving the cities this funding.

The governor's proposed budget in January did not show the cuts in vehicle licensing fees, but it's possible the cuts could show up in a revision of the budget in May or that members of the state legislature will pursue the vehicle licensing fees themselves. The final budget for 2002-03 is scheduled to be approved in June.

The loss would be \$600,000 for Albany out of a total of \$900,000 in vehicle license fee revenue for the city. That would be 6 percent of Albany's general fund revenues.

"The main concern with the state having a greater than \$12 billion deficit is that the cities are very vulnerable to have funds taken away from them by the

See BUDGET, Page A9

'You have a lot of emotions trying to come from you that you're dealing with ... You have to rediscover a side of you that you didn't know you had before'

—John Sanchez



ALBANY HIGH GRADUATE John Sanchez, 19, in an isolation room at Alta Bates Hospital's oncology ward Monday, visits with friends James Rhodes-Dreyer, 19, left, Julie Shan, 18, center and Stephanie Roybal, 18.

## Friends rally 'round AHS grad fighting leukemia

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

In early 2001, John Sanchez was a popular varsity football player at Albany High School on the fast track to a career as a chef.

But since October, he has spent at least seven weeks holed up in a room at Alta Bates Medical Center, undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia.

Those who know the strong, 6-foot-3 former wrestler and varsity football player couldn't believe the diagnosis. But ever since, the thoughts of friends, family and the members of the

community have been with Sanchez, who graduated from Albany High School last June.

"It's kind of a shock," said James Rhodes-Dreyer, a friend of Sanchez's since kindergarten. "Big John" is his nickname. This is a true test to see how strong he really is."

Sanchez noticed something was wrong one Friday morning in early October, when he had a back spasm and came down with bad flu-like symptoms, light-headedness and dizziness.

Four days after the back spasm, he went to the hospital. Almost immediately, doctors

knew what was wrong. He was sent to the emergency room and didn't leave the hospital for four weeks.

"I was just pretty scared," said Sanchez. "I really didn't know what was going on."

"It just happened; there was no rhyme or reason," said Becca Sanchez, John's mom. "There's no cancer in my family at all. This was just shot out of the blue."

The treatment has been a long and lonely process, made even worse, said Sanchez, by the pity he's encountered. "I just want to be treated like a normal person,"

he said. "You have a lot of emotions trying to come from you that you're dealing with. And you're wondering, where did these emotions come from? You see a sad commercial and you say 'This is really a sad commercial.' You have to rediscover a side of you that you didn't know you had before."

Albany residents have been pulling for Sanchez's recovery. The Albany High School Athletic boosters held a fund-raiser for Sanchez last November. A donation box was set aside at the

See SANCHEZ, Page A9

## Council reverses commission rejection of Hampton Inn

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The City Council gave the go-ahead for a motel expansion near the corner of San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard Monday, overturning an earlier decision by the Planning Commission.

Nick Patel, the owner of the Freeway Motel, wants to demolish the 16-room structure and build a four-story, 72-room Hampton Inn. The building would have frontage on San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard, though because of its "L" shape around a gas station, the

building would not include the corner of the two streets.

On a split decision, the planning commission turned down the proposal Dec. 5 on the grounds that the consequences of the hotel would have on views was not well researched, according to a staff report.

In addition, the commission found that the project did not comply with the city's general plan in being pedestrian-friendly or architecturally exceptional; was not appropriate for the location or consistent with adjacent uses with respect to size and bulk; did not promote BART as

a focal point as it was unlikely that persons frequenting the motel would use BART; and that the applicant didn't demonstrate that the project would provide an economic benefit to the surrounding area or city.

Patel appealed the commission's decision at Monday's council meeting.

Associate planner Regina Adams told the council that the project is pedestrian-friendly and appropriately designed, and would have the potential to increase BART use, particularly for the hotel's employees. She said it also would be an economic

stimulus.

In addition, a new study concluded that views from nearby homes would not be obstructed, Adams said.

"You really can't see the hotel site from the hills," she said, showing slide projections to the council.

"All we're trying to do is upgrade the motel and make the neighborhood look better," added Arvind Iyer, the project's architect.

The council unanimously approved a conditional use permit that would allow the expansion. Council members agreed that

a bigger hotel would bring more foot traffic to the area, customers to local businesses while providing El Cerrito with more meeting space and tax dollars.

"I'm very happy that there's a business at this location," said Councilwoman Kathleen Perka. "There's no doubt that the city needs the tax revenue."

"I do think a hotel can add to the pedestrian nature of the area," added Councilwoman Letitia Moore.

Two residents also spoke to the issue. Resident Jessica Roth-

See HAMPTON, Page A10

THE FORMER El Cerrito Mill and Lumber site is dormant while plans for retail and housing are reworked to reduce costs. The developer also open to using part of the land for a new El Cerrito city hall.

HERMAN DUSTAMANTE JR./STAFF

## Study finds child care need exceeds availability

In Contra Costa and Alameda counties, it can cost one-third of the median family income for two children's care

By Sara Steffens  
STAFF WRITER

In the East Bay, a year of full-time child care for a toddler costs about twice as much as the annual tuition at UC Berkeley.

That startling fact just begins to indicate the burden child care costs can place on parents.

According to the 2001 California Child Care Portfolio released this week in Sacramento, middle-class East Bay families must spend about one-third their income to keep two youngsters in child care.

Unless she receives some form of subsidy, a mother making minimum wage will find that raising and child care expenses exceed her salary by 70 percent. Sound familiar? Perhaps it's because the findings mirror those of the previous child care portfolio, issued two years ago.

The depressing news is how many things have stayed the same," said Patty Siegel, executive director of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, which compiles the report. "It isn't getting easier, it's getting harder ... Any working family knows this."

The portfolio relies largely on data from 2000, and so does not reflect the recent economic downturn, Siegel says. The data reveal trends.

The rate at which new child care centers are being established, for instance, has slowed. That that says to us is that the resources that people need to start up or maintain a child care center aren't available," Siegel

Other findings:  
■ Child care worker pay remains low, averaging \$17,420 a year.

■ Alameda County providers are struggling to fill a growing need for services in languages other than English.

■ Across California, the number of family homes providing child care grew about 4 percent,

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INFORMATION FOR LIFE



## WORTH CHECKING OUT

## Improv at Eclectica

Cafe Eclectica in Albany presents San Francisco Improv on Saturday, Feb. 9. The cafe opens at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. The show is open to all (donations welcome). The cafe is at 1509 Solano Ave. Albany. Details: 510-527-2344

## Rep. Lee, speak to me

Ninth District U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee will hold a public meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9, at Cafe Eclectica, 1509 Solano Ave. Enjoy light refreshments and an opportunity to talk to Lee about the economy, the environment, education, home security, or other issues.

## Renaissance dancing

You can learn to dance like Queen Elizabeth (the First), accompanied by her favorite keyboard, the virginals, at MusicSources in Berkeley. Following the

presentation there is a reception and an opportunity to explore MusicSources and its historic instruments. The presentation will be held at 5 p.m. on Feb. 10, at MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda at Marin, Berkeley. Cost is \$18. MS members/seniors/students are \$15. Call for family rates. For reservations call 510-528-1685.

## Schools focus group

School board member Patricia Player is holding a focus group from 9:30-11 a.m. on Feb. 9, at the El Cerrito United Methodist Church, 6830 Stockton Ave. Everyone is welcome to come and discuss issues related to the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

## Workshop for singers

Karen Clark leads a workshop on language, symbol, and gesture in the music of Hildegard Von Bingen, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at St. Al-

ban's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1501 Washington St. Albany. Karen Clark is a practitioner of the Feldenkrais Method. Singers of all levels are invited to attend. Cost: \$85. Details: 510-594-4048.

## Preschool stories

Albany Library hosts "Saturday Morning Stories and More" for ages 3-6. The free series is Saturdays at 11 a.m. through March 16. Details: 526-3720.

## Ballot propositions

The Richmond Chapter of the League of Women Voters will host a discussion of the propositions on the ballot from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 19, in the third-floor conference room of the Sumnerville Retirement Residence (formerly called El Cerrito Royale) 6510 Gladys Ave. at the corner of Lexington, El Cerrito. Details: Joan Bartulovich, 510-232-1136.

## Mayor to explain local business outlook

MAYOR JANET ABELSON will deliver a talk on "The Outlook for Business in El Cerrito," at this month's Chamber business luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Her address will follow the regular noon luncheon of the business organization at the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club.

The event is open to all chamber members and their guests. However, reservations are required. They may be made by calling the chamber at 510-233-7040 on or before Friday, Feb. 22.

## Two more join

With two new firms on its roster firms, the Chamber has boosted the total of new members in January to five.

The Open Door is a conflict management service conducted by El Cerrito resident Sterling Newberry. As a consultant in conflict management, Newberry helps organizations turn conflict into value for their stakeholders.

He mediates harassment and discrimination cases for the U.S. Postal Service, helps business teams find workable solution to knotty problems, develops and presents workshops in conflict management, and coaches individuals and organizations in interest-based negotiations.

After working 31 years as a machinist, Newberry realized he liked training new people and acting as an informal mediator in disputes. He became a work unit team facilitator and went back to graduate school to get a certificate in conflict management, then worked evenings and weekends for four years to build his private consultancy.

Last year Newberry took very early retirement from United Airlines to go into full time practice. Now, he says, he "looks forward to being of service to the city of El Cerrito."

The other new member is El Cerritan Andrew Brown, head of the Lightstream Window Cleaning Company, who said, "I like working for people who want reliable, professional services from

SEWALL GLINTERNICK  
El Cerrito Chamber

someone they like and trust," said

Andy, as he is often called, has been making windows in this area sparkle for the past eight years — and is a particular favorite of real estate agents preparing homes for sale. Brown also cleans chandeliers, skylights and gutters and offers pressure washing of exterior concrete and brick surfaces. He offers free estimates.

Brown became a window cleaner to supplement his income as a high school teacher in Albany, and quickly discovered he had a talent for both business and pleasing customers. In a short time he was able to make enough money cleaning windows to support his wife and two small children.

Lightstream window cleaning can be reached by telephone 510-812-8129.

## Member returns

After an absence of almost seven years DeSalvo Chiropractic returns to membership in the Chamber with both a new name — Advance Integrated Medical Center of Contra Costa County — and a new online health magazine.

In rejoining, Dr. Douglas DeSalvo, whose medical center is located at 11100 San Pablo Ave., Suite 104, announced he is launching an electronic magazine called El Cerrito Health Online as a free community service.

As the magazine's editor, DeSalvo said he intends to provide information designed to improve community members' quality of life. The material will focus on both mainstream and alternative healthcare and will be concise, current, useful and easy to understand.

"Our goal," DeSalvo explained, "is to keep you up-to-date on late breaking health news affecting the lives of you, your family and friends. I, along with other local physicians and alternative healthcare practitioners,

will be contributing articles relating to our areas of expertise in order to help with many healthcare decisions you need to make each and every day."

The magazine will be sent by e-mail twice monthly to all who subscribe to this free service by visiting the Web site at [www.elcerritohealth.org](http://www.elcerritohealth.org), click the "subscribe free" link and provide their e-mail address.

## Reinvestments top 100

During the past two weeks 14 more members extended their Chamber membership, pushing the number of reinvestments for the month of January to a total of 109. The latest to reinvest:

Jo and Marcia Grossman, El Cerrito Electric, Little Angel's, Summerville at El Cerrito, Target Stores, Advanced Integrated Medical Center, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Full Circle Travel, Chris Ruetz, Copy Central, Miriam Avenius, Larry Damon, and Del Norte Exxon.

## Chamber president to be honored

The El Cerrito City Council has selected Chamber President Marge Collins as the El Cerrito woman to be honored at Contra Costa College's Women's History Celebration on March 2.

Collins and leaders from other West County cities, will be honored for their community service at special ceremonies to be held in college's performing arts center from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Medical group relocates

The El Cerrito Medical Group, a Chamber member since 1987, has moved its operation from 10690 San Pablo Ave. to 500 San Pablo in Albany.

According to Dr. Andrew Wallach, head of the group, the telephone number of the medical office will remain the same at 510-524-2070.

## Local firm honored

El Cerrito businessman Blaine J. Davis, local investment representative for the Edward Jones financial services firm, an-

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## POLICE REPORTS

## Man finds empty spot where car was warming up

By K. Osborn  
CORRESPONDENT

ALBANY — On Jan. 28 officers stopped a blue '00 Volkswagen Passat on the 800 block of Madison Street for a vehicle code violation. The driver, an Albany man, was found to be intoxicated and was arrested.

On Jan. 28 an Oakland woman reported that during the previous night thieves had broken the window of her black '98 Honda Civic and stolen items.

On the afternoon of Jan. 28 a woman on the 700 block of Kains Avenue reported that a suspicious man was inside her white Volkswagen Rabbit parked in her driveway. Officers found a 44-year-old Pleasant Hill man sleeping in her car. He was arrested for being drunk in public.

A resident on the 700 block of Spokane Avenue came home for lunch Jan. 28 and found his house had been broken into.

A woman reported that while she was eating lunch at a restaurant on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on Jan. 28 the people sitting behind her stole her wallet from out of her purse.

On Jan. 28 a resident on the 1500 block of Terrace Street reported a canvas bag containing personal items was stolen from the trunk of her '95 Plymouth. She had left the trunk open while she went into her house.

At about 5 a.m. on Jan. 29 officers responded to a donut shop on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a woman who appeared to have "flipped out." Officers contacted the transient woman out on the sidewalk who appeared to be intoxicated. She was arrested for being in possession of a controlled substance.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29 officers contacted a subject sprawled on the walkway at a business on the 900 block of San Pablo Avenue. They arrested the Richmond man for an outstanding Berkeley warrant.

On the afternoon of Jan. 29

a woman reported that her gold '80 Chevrolet Camaro had been "keyed" while parked in a lot on the 1500 block of Solano Avenue.

On Jan. 29 a resident on the 600 block of Stannage Avenue reported that she had left her purse in her unlocked car while she went into her house for a couple of minutes. When she returned her purse was gone.

On Jan. 29 a resident at 555 Pierce St. reported that the previous night thieves had stolen the in-dash stereo from his car while it was parked in the garage area.

On Jan. 30 a Richmond woman reported she had parked her blue '91 Toyota on the 1500 block of Washington Avenue and when she returned it was missing. Richmond police reported locating the vehicle around 2:30 a.m. the next day. There was no damage to the car and they did not have anyone in custody.

An Albany woman reported that while she was jogging on Masonic Avenue at about 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 30, a man on a bike rode by and grabbed her buttocks. She then saw the attacker a few minutes later on Solano Avenue.

Shortly after midnight on Jan. 31 officers contacted a Richmond man on the 1000 block of Eastshore Highway and found he had an outstanding warrant from San Mateo for possession of a controlled substance in the amount of \$5,000. He was arrested.

On Jan. 31 a resident on the 1000 block of Key Route Boulevard reported that thieves stole his silver '77 Datsun.

On Jan. 31 an Oakland woman reported her burgundy-colored Kia was burgled while it was parked on the 1500 block of Posen Avenue.

On Jan. 31 a resident on the 900 block of Cornell Avenue reported that vandals had broken the branches off of 14 trees on his property. He indicated this had happened three times before.

At about 7 p.m. on Jan. 31 officers stopped two men riding

bicycles near Jackson Buchanan streets because they were riding without headlamps. A 39-year-old El Sobrante man was found to be in possession of a stolen car, a 20-year-old man was arrested for stealing a car, and a 20-year-old man was arrested for possession of a stolen car. He was arrested for possession of burglary tools, resisting an officer. A 19-year-old Richmond boy, was arrested for the same charges.

At about 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 31 officers responded to a report of a stolen car on the 500 block of Pablo Avenue on reports of the curtesy of a possible stolen car. Officers contacted the driver, a 20-year-old Richmond man, and arrested him for possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools, resisting an officer. A 19-year-old Richmond boy, was arrested for the same charges.

At about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 31 officers responded to a report of a stolen car on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue reported that the noise outside. He went outside and saw someone south through the parking lot then get into a car on the 1100 block of Brighton and Cornell avenues. He saw the vehicle depart with its lights off. A search found a Honda with a broken rear window.

On the morning of Feb. 1 a resident on the 400 block of Solano Avenue reported that his gray Civic, he went into his home a few minutes, leaving the car running. When he returned to it was gone.

On Feb. 1 a resident on the 1000 block of Ventura Avenue reported vandals had smashed the window of his '92 Infiniti parked in front of his home.

On the afternoon of Feb. 1 an employee of a business on the 800 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that a subject described as a white male, about 6 feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds, curly hair, stole several bottles of liquor. The subject was

See CRIME, Page A8

## Arrests in thefts of goods from Plaza

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A man was arrested shortly after 9:20 a.m. on Jan. 28 on suspicion of stealing \$500 worth of merchandise from an El Cerrito Plaza business. The man was booked in the county jail and charged with felony grand theft.

Another man was arrested shortly after 10:02 a.m. on Jan. 26 on suspicion of stealing merchandise from an El Cerrito Plaza business on the 1000 block of Later. At 2:30 p.m., another man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting from the same store. Both men were booked in the county jail. The first man was charged with burglary and the second was charged with felony petty theft.

At around 10:55 p.m. on Feb. 2, a man took two cartons of cigarettes and then fled from a store on the 10000 block of San Pablo

Avenue.

Six hundred and eight dollars was missing from a safe at a business on the 5900 block of Cutting Boulevard. According to the police report, the manager suspected an employee took the cash at around 1:49 a.m. on Feb. 1.

Someone set fire to a stolen vehicle in a parking lot on the 5300 block of Potrero Avenue sometime between 8 and 4 a.m. on Feb. 3.

At around 5:45 p.m. on Feb. 4, a woman walking on a BART pathway was approached by a man on a bike who groped her and then rode away.

A man from the 1200 block of Liberty Street told police a gun was stolen from his apartment between Jan. 20 and Jan. 23.

A man from the 2200 block of Pinehurst Court reported to police on Feb. 1 that his identity was stolen and several bank accounts were opened in his name outside of the state.

A small rock was thrown through a bedroom window on the 6800 block of Gladys Avenue sometime between noon and 7:15 p.m. on Feb. 1.

A cell phone and portable

television were stolen from a business on the 11000 block of Pablo Avenue sometime between 4:45 and 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 28.

On Feb. 1 at 1:05 p.m. a man came up behind a woman, took her purse and ran away. Blake Street and Walnut Avenue.

On Jan. 28 at 1:45 p.m. a person attempted to enter the car on the 11740 block of Pablo Avenue by hitting it with a bat-like object. The person when the car alarm went off.

A man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting on the 1200 block of San Pablo Avenue at 12:30 p.m. on suspicion of possessing a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was stolen from Joaquin and San Jose avenues. The vehicle was stolen from the bany on Dec. 16.

Police arrested two men on suspicion of shoplifting on the 11740 block of Pablo Avenue at 9:57 p.m. on Feb. 1. The two were arrested after being stopped at Mosier Lane Avis Drive.

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NEWSROOM: 510-243-3575

e-mail: [journal@ccjtimes.com](mailto:journal@ccjtimes.com)

fax: 510-243-3574

voice mail: 510-236-9243

EDITOR Chris Treadway:

510-243-3575 • [ctreadway@ccjtimes.com](mailto:ctreadway@ccjtimes.com)

NEWS STAFF:

Matt Petersen: 510-243-3577

[mpetersen@ccjtimes.com](mailto:mpetersen@ccjtimes.com)

Clare Curley: 510-243-3576

[curley@ccjtimes.com](mailto:curley@ccjtimes.com)

J.R. Deaton: 510-243-3579

[jdeaton@ccjtimes.com](mailto:jdeaton@ccjtimes.com)

SPORTS

Bill Krussink: 510-748-1652

[bkussink@ccjtimes.com](mailto:bkussink@ccjtimes.com)

Mike McGreehan: 510-748-1661

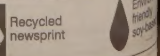
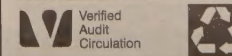
[mmcgreehan@ccjtimes.com](mailto:mmcgreehan@ccjtimes.com)

Scott Strain: 510-748-1662

[sstrain@ccjtimes.com](mailto:sstrain@ccjtimes.com)

MANAGING EDITOR: Dick Sparrer

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# Columnist battles Captain Underpants

**F**OLLOW THE STORY wherever it goes, and if leads to another column, it's the same old newsman once again. That's what happened when I read a letter to the editor in the West County Times that discovered that a wedgie is not just a type of shoe as I thought.

A Concord woman wrote an letter on an item which appeared in the Times Pacific magazine about Julia Roberts and a 10-year old boy named Scotty giving each other wedgies during the filming of the movie "Erin Brockovich." I expect most males who read that had thoughts best directed to themselves, particularly if they were married. Since I am a single man, I'll skip mine involving the "La Femme Nikita" and Jeri Ryan (Seven) in "Star Trek: Voyager" and cut to the serious search for which this space is known.

I consulted the Cassell Dictionary of Slang which defines wedgie as, "A trick whereby one pulls an unsuspecting victim's underpants up between the buttocks." That was really the end of the story for me, although I couldn't help wonder whether the award-winning actress or the novice thespian investigated this fun game. So for more information on wedgies, I turned to Suzie Sargent, an assistant librarian at the Albany Library who has read out much arcane information for me. She told me wedgies were well known to the younger set, and that they are a popular children's game. In a book by Dav Pilkey entitled, "Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman."

I suspected I was on to something bigger than wedgies when I read this summary of the book: "George and Harold really did it this time — they created a monster! She's smarter, and more evil than anything the world has ever before — she's Wedgie Woman! With the help of her robot and her horrendous hairdo, Wedgie Woman is determined to take over the world, and she'll give a whopie wedgie to anyone who gets in her way — including Captain Underpants."

This book is actually the series whose protagonists are George and Harold, a pair of fifth-graders who create a "superhero," Captain Underpants. They write and illustrate this series of comic books and print on the school



DAVE GREER  
Man About Town

copy machine.

I began to get the range of author Pilkey when I saw the titles of the other books including "Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets," and "Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants." I found the professor's middle name is "Pee-Pee" and encountered signs which read, "Don't Fart in a Diaper," and "Today's Lunch: Nasty Toilet Pee-Pee Sandwiches."

I had thought potty humor was simply the last resort of third-rate comedians; learning that it was being marketed to young children came as a nasty shock.

And cleverly marketed, too. Mr. Mopps' toy store in Berkeley tells me there was a Christmas special of four books and a whoopee cushion. Many kids go through a stage where bodily wastes and anything associated with them are wildly funny, but I never heard of anybody trying to exploit it at this level.

**IT GETS WORSE:** Looking through several of these books I found the central theme is the humiliation and defeat of all school authority figures from the principal to the cafeteria workers. The story lines are incoherent and moronic even by comic book standards, and common words are frequently misspelled and misused. I assume this is intentional, but as Pilkey's disruptive behavior in school earned him a permanent seat in the hall, who knows? Pilkey eschews the moral themes and uplifting examples usually found in children's books, and even jokes proudly about doing so. Crudity and vulgarity replace art and charm. What we have here is consciously amoral, anti-learning, in-your-face scatology. And kid's minds are much like computers: garbage in, garbage out.

With all this going for them the books have been extremely popular since 1997 when the first one sold more than a million copies. Others have won awards and received rave notices from critics and top trade publications such as Publisher's Weekly. Pilkey has dis-

covered that potty humor for kids pays even better than it does for adults who never grew out of it. (The books sell for \$16.95 in hardback and \$4.95 in paperback.)

These findings set me to remembering the wonderful children's books of my youth, the happy hours spent with Peter Rabbit, Winnie the Pooh, Mr. Small and his car, boat and plane, and in enchanted places like the Land of Oz.

Looking over my son's old books, I found his beloved copy of "Runaway Ralph," a mouse who, "did not want to grow up to be just another crumb-scrounging mouse." and took off on his motorcycle to find "adventure and excitement." (I am reading it again and enjoying it greatly.)

Also on the shelf was "The Little Engine that Could," a true classic with unobtrusive but profound moral messages. "The Velveteen Rabbit or How Toys Become Real" with its beautiful illustrations was next to "The Little Prince," Antoine De Saint-Exupery's masterpiece that charms people of all ages. And there were many more of the books that have entertained and informed the lives of generations of children.

I found it so depressing to learn that the magic world of childhood was being debased by a mind-molesting, fast-buck artist like Pilkey, that I almost threw the whole story out. Then I began to wonder how many others there might be in this disgusting genre, so I kept on digging.

Back in the Albany Library, Suzie Sargent gave me the heartening news that she thought the adventures of Pilkey's "Waistband Warrior" were waning in popularity. This was confirmed by another expert, Melissa Lopez, a sixth-grader who knows the Pilkey books. She said her brothers and other boys — their main readers — now considered them "old" and had moved on. I hoped this was not because they had read them all. Fortunately, Pilkey does not seem to have spawned imitators as might be expected. Both Sargent and Rosalie Gonzales, librarian in Albany's Marin and Cornell elementary schools, said the only other books my question brought to mind were the Lemmy Snicket series.

In this "Series of Unfortunate Events" three orphans, "lead lives filled with bad luck and misery." On the dust jacket of the third one we also learn,

See UNDERPANTS, Page A7

# EC favors new school bond measure

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

**EL CERRITO** — The City Council voted unanimously Jan. 28 to back Measure D, a \$300 million bond measure for high school and middle school infrastructure improvements proposed by the West Contra Costa County Unified School District.

"All the children in El Cerrito deserve much better than we've provided them," said Councilman Mark Friedman.

The Measure D bond was brought before the council by school district officials. The bond will be placed on the March primary ballot and must pass by a 55 percent margin to take effect.

School board member George Harris said the measure would go a long way toward revitalizing area schools, particularly 60-year-old El Cerrito High School.

"The fact of the matter is our schools are in terrible need of repair," Harris. "Measure D will complete the capital program that will bring our schools into 21st century standards."

But not everyone felt that way. Four residents said schools have not received the improvements promised by previous bond measures. "You're going to write a blank check for \$300 million and you don't know what you're getting into," said Kevin Rivard, who argued another bond measure would be needed in the future, even if Measure D passes.

Resident Bill Olivito said he spends enough money on school taxes as it is and has yet to see any improvements.

"It seems like the more we spend the less we get," said Olivito, "and I'm tired of it."

Hercules resident Tom Lynden argued that the oversight committee for Measure M would not have any authority and the Measure D money would end up in the district's general fund.

"It's a \$300 million petty-cash fund," he claimed.

Students, residents and school district officials countered that the bond measure is desperately needed for El Cerrito High School, saying that plumbing, infrastructure and problems hin-

der learning.

El Cerrito High School student Stephanie Severy said teachers are buying their own white boards and overhead projectors to replace the school's dilapidated chalkboards.

Student Joshua Forcum added that the school deserves stall doors on the men's restrooms, and working lights in classrooms.

"El Cerrito has survived a drought for so long," said Forcum. "It's time to open the flood-gates."

The council agreed and passed a motion voicing its support for the bond measure, saying it is needed so students can receive a better education. Councilwoman Gina Brusatori said the district has learned from its mistakes in the past and will do a good job in overseeing the measure.

"We owe it to our children and community in a broader sense to provide tools and resources," said Councilman Mark Friedman.

"It's time to get the city to the point where we can be proud of our schools," said Councilwoman Janet Abelson, "and it's impor-

## IN BRIEF

### Black History Month event set by CC&C

**EL CERRITO** — Celebrating Culture & Community will host a Black History Month event, "Carrying the Torch from Generation to Generation," Feb. 17.

Performers include the Bay Area Steppers, St. Peter's CME Church Choir, singer Sonjay of Sonjay's Productions, prize-winning poet Traivon Soto and author/musician Fred Jackson, who will read from his play "Brother Dap." Pat Durham will be MC.

The event is from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 at the El Cerrito Veterans' Hall, 6401 Stockton Ave. Getting there: the No. 72 and No. 72L buses stop one block away from the Hall. Drivers: take the Central Avenue exit from I-80, turn left at San Pablo Avenue and right at Stockton.

Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for CC&C members and free for children 12 and under and people in wheelchairs. For information call 510-236-3255.

### Education group sets gala fund-raiser

**ALBANY** — The Albany Education Foundation's Feb. 18 gala and silent auction will be held at the Solano Grill and Bar, 1133 Solano Ave.

Solano Grill and Bar owners Sam and Philip Chin have cre-

ated a menu that includes smoked pork loin chop, seafood mixed grill and wild mushroom ravioli for the Albany Education Foundation's fourth such event.

Planners are hoping to exceed the \$11,000 net proceeds from last year, which were used to fund a variety of programs throughout the Albany School District including elementary school science and history presentations, high school computer training, band instruments, cooking classes and field trips.

Tickets are \$60 per person or \$480 for a table for eight. Seatings are at 5 or 7:30 p.m.

Call 510-558-6823 for reservations or send a check made to AEF at 1320 Solano Avenue, Suite 102, Albany 94706, made out to AEF. Payment must be received in order to confirm a reservation. Seating is limited.

### Vernal pools topic of slide show

**EL CERRITO** — The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Community Center, 7007 Moers Lane.

Botanical and biological con-

sultant Carol Witham will present a slide show on the distribution, ecology and unique flowers and other organisms of vernal pools.

Witham is regarded as an expert in vernal pools and their rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals. Guests are welcome, the cost is \$3 at the door. Call 510-525-1669.

### New and improved Albany Pool reopens

The Albany Pool, at 1311 Portland Ave., has reopened after eight months of being closed for renovations.

A new session of adult classes at the pool will begin Monday, Jan. 28. Classes will include calisthenics in the water, arthritis exercise, deep water exercise, synchronized swimming, advanced technique and swimming instruction from beginner to advanced. Registration is now being accepted at the pool.

An American Red Cross life-guard training class started last week. In addition, lap swimming, and drop-in swimming are held several times a day. Details: 510-559-6648.

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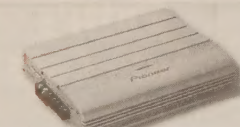
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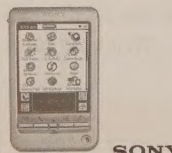
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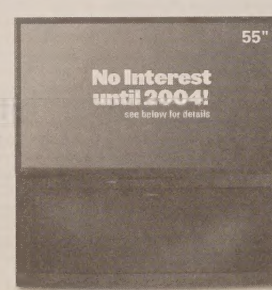
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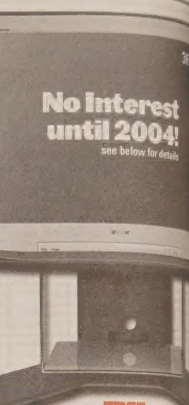
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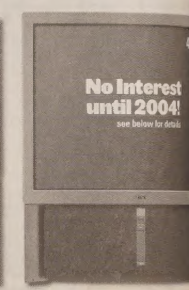
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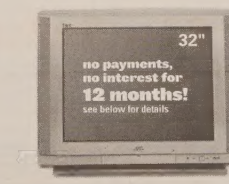
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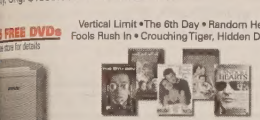
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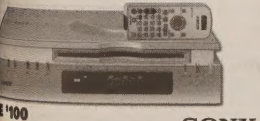
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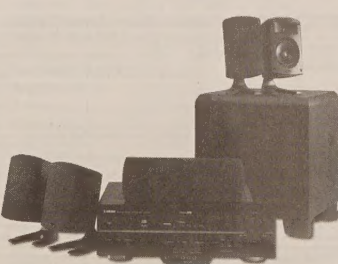


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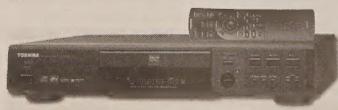
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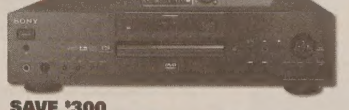
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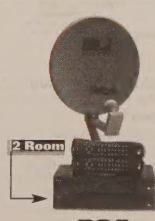
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# Opinion

## EDITORIAL

### Don't be left out where it counts — in the voting booth

**W**E'VE BEEN HEARING a lot of noble things lately about how wonderful it is to live in this country and enjoy the freedoms we have.

On March 5 we will have a chance to exercise the most basic of those freedoms, by voting in the primary election. But before someone can vote, they must register, and the deadline to register is Tuesday, Feb. 19.

And thanks to technology and the Internet, getting the information on registering and voting has never been easier. Do you want information from the County Elections Office? In Contra Costa visit [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us:80/depart/elect/index.htm](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us:80/depart/elect/index.htm). In Alameda County visit [www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/index.htm](http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/index.htm).

Each site is packed with information, plus links to a number of other important sites. There's the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville at <http://home.pacbell.net/lwvbae/>, the league's voter information at [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org), and Secretary of State Bill Jones, California's election officer, at [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm) : and both are accessible through the county site. You can even start the registration process through [www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html).

And, if all else fails, you can let your fingers do the walking. Just pick up the phone and call 925-646-4166.

The registration deadline is 5 p.m. on Feb. 19. If mailed in, registration forms must be postmarked by Feb. 19. Those registering between now and the 19th will receive a postcard, telling them where to vote. Sample ballots are available on the net at [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).

You can get a voter registration card just about anywhere : they are available at your local post office, Department of Motor Vehicles offices, any branch of the library, the city clerk's office in your own city hall, and at the county Elections Office (524 Main St. in Martinez for Contra Costa County and 1225 Fallon St., Room G-1 in Oakland for Alameda County).

However, if during the past four years, you haven't voted in any election, haven't responded to postcards or letters sent by the Elections Department, or haven't had any contact with the department, then you may have been placed on the inactive voter roll, removed from the list of registered voters.

There are thousands of unregistered eligible voters in the county — people who, even if they wanted to vote, couldn't. We will be choosing the final candidates for the top offices in the state, plus there are a number of issues that will directly affect county residents.

Don't be left out on March 5: make sure that you are registered to cast that vote.

### Parents know the score

**A**ccording to the 2001 California Child Care Portfolio, a report released this week by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, a year of full-time child care for a toddler in the East Bay costs about twice as much as the annual tuition at UC Berkeley.

That's a finding to which most parents in the will likely respond with a resounding, "Duh!"

And to which the childless (or, "child-free" as some like to style themselves) might respond, "Well, they chose to have kids. Let them worry about it."

To be a parent now, here, is to live in a society that's deeply hypocritical in regard to children.

There's a huge, vocal and active group who promote the welfare and safety of fetuses — though where they stand on the welfare, safety and viable life of the women carrying those fetuses is much less clear.

Later, when those fetuses become children, our society as a whole begins to fail them and those who care for them.

Those who spend their lives caring for a child or children, from stay-at-home moms to child-care workers to teachers, are taken advantage of daily. We talk about the importance of what they're doing — raising the leaders of tomorrow and all that — but we lack the political will to back it up with real compensation. According to this study, we pay child-care workers an average of \$17,420 a year. That and a hearty handshake aren't much to live on.

No, neither parents nor child-care workers nor anyone else with children in their lives will be the least surprised that childcare is expensive and hard to find.

It may sound hackneyed, but these truly are the leaders of the future, the voters of the future and the workers of the future who will pay taxes to fund programs aimed at helping the growing population of the elderly — that'll be most of us.

Let's hope those kids' memories are short and that their wisdom is greater than ours.

## HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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## THIS MONTH IS LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

YOU'RE TELLING ME, EVEN THOUGH LINCOLN LIVED IN WASHINGTON, HE HAD A GETTYSBURG ADDRESS?

THAT'S WHAT I READ SOMEWHERE.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Lindh is a traitor

I read that John Lindh's father said, "John loves America ... He did not do anything against America."

Please, spare me this hogwash! I feel sorry for the father, but eventually he will have to face reality. His son left America and went to Afghanistan, where he trained in explosives and firearms in an al-Qaida terrorist camp.

Lindh personally associated with Osama bin Laden and knew beforehand that bin Laden had ordered those suicide attacks against America. He publicly stated that he approved of bin Laden's actions in hijacking the three American planes and the killing of more than 3,000 innocent Americans, plus all the innocent passengers in the planes.

Lindh took up arms against Americans and actively fought shoulder to shoulder with the Taliban against our American soldiers.

These are the actions of a traitor. That he is even allowed a legal team to try to whitewash his actions into something else is more than he deserves. Not even by the wildest interpretation could that be called "love" of country.

People have been executed for less. If I were Lindh's judge, he would never again enjoy the freedoms he fought against.

Morris Cleland  
El Cerrito

### El Cerrito beware

I understand Zentner and Zentner Associates has filed an application with the California Department of Fish and Game to alter a streambed that runs through the proposed Bay Vista subdivision in El Cerrito.

To grade and "re-engineer" the site, the developer plans to fill 90 feet of natural stream channel, remove 109 trees and "the majority of the vegetation," and install an arch culvert.

I believe these activities will cause major, unacceptable impacts to the creek in an area that is a natural continuation of the Hillside Nature Area. Development on this site will destroy a unique, existing wildlife corridor vegetated with some of the finest stands of coffeeberry, coast live oak, monkeyflower and other native species no longer commonly found in the El Cerrito area.

I support the restoration of degraded creeks, but projects conducted by consulting firms without expertise in watershed hydrology have been ecological failures.

Zentner and Zentner has a dubious reputation and Friends of Baxter Creek co-founder Lisa Viani had to report a water-quality violation to the Regional Water Quality Control Board after discovering last summer that the developer had plowed through the creek with heavy equipment.

The city of El Cerrito should not only

order a new EIR to examine the environmental impact of this development, but also seriously consider a better alternative site.

Suzette Lalime Davidson  
Richmond

### Ludicrous statements

Perhaps President Bush, the brilliant, ethical American leader of the war on terrorism, should consider — being that he is dismayed by Palestinians' importing arms into the occupied territories — declaring to the world that the United States will observe a moratorium on arms and munitions shipments to Israel if the Palestinians will also abide by such a moratorium.

Lacking such reciprocity, the brilliance of our president's pronouncements may appear, to some, tarnished.

On the other hand, of course, President Bush's concern for the victims of his "former" number one booster and pal Ken Lay, are unquestionably sincere. Bush had nothing to do with assuring Lay's energy deregulation agenda. Right?

Marc Sapor  
Berkeley

### White-collar felons

As most of us who have been following the Enron debacle as it unfolds notice, several smoking guns are visible.

A federal judge in Houston denies freezing Enron executives' assets, then she rescues herself. By the time the assets are seized, most will have been hidden, or evaporated.

Who says crime doesn't pay? White-collar crime, anyway?

Charles Keating is the poster boy for white-collar crime paying millions, while only serving a few months. Lives and futures have been destroyed by these white-collar felons, but they seem to walk away with their proceeds intact.

We'll expect no less for Kenneth Lay. When the smoke clears, he'll probably do no more than five years — and have a very nice nest egg to live on when he gets released.

Funny thing ... if this had been perpetrated by an African-American or other minority, you could easily expect him to get the maximum jail term in a horrible prison. Meanwhile Lay will be in the "Club Fed" lockup to work on his tan and golf slice.

And you wanted to know what those campaign contributions bought? Lots of luck!

Whatta country!

Jerry Nickel  
Berkeley

### Good teachers first

The newly passed education bill will give California schools more money, but don't expect much improvement. Students do not need pressure; they need

good teachers.

Did you see the "60 Minutes" exposé of teaching to the tests in Texas. The students learned little else, emerging virtually uneducated.

It's the teachers who should be tested, helped to improve instruction and given adequate resources. A good teacher can influence even the most unpromising students to achievement. I have done it.

Lewis Lapham has written that if it were not for the failure of the schools, George W. Bush would know how to say the Gettysburg Address in Latin. Well, at least he would be familiar with the U.S. Constitution and the importance of civil rights.

More importantly, the people of the United States would be familiar with the Constitution and not blandly accept the deterioration of our civil rights. How many have even read it, to say nothing of understanding it?

Marion K. Matlin  
El Cerrito

### A tree emergency

California has a tree emergency. Much of California was once just grassland with scrub brush. The only trees were in gulches and ravines.

Many of the old trees we have now are not native to the area, were planted in what turned out to be inappropriate locations and are ready to fall after heavy rains, high winds or earthquakes.

Eucalyptus trees were planted in windbreaks years ago and are now near housing developments. The really tall trees are a major hazard to homes, pedestrians, parked cars and park users.

Such trees should be inspected yearly by qualified arborists to anticipate any problems. In fact, we need a statewide hazardous tree law and policy on the removal of dangerous trees before they can cause damage. Some cities, including Oakland, already have such laws.

Homeowners who need arborists should check the Yellow Pages of their phone book. In the San Francisco area, the Bay Area Checkbook magazine, sold on newsstands, has ratings of arborists made by their readers and Consumer Reports.

UC Cooperative Extension has been holding annual one-day tree failure conferences for arborists each January at Filoli (an old mansion west of Redwood City and north of Woodside). They have a tree failure reporting system to identify evolving problems. Interested persons should call 650-726-9059.

Cooperative Extension offices are listed in the county government sections of local phone books.

A booklet, "Recognizing Tree Hazards," is available for \$4 plus tax and postage; call 610-642-2431.

Charles L. Smith  
Berkeley

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787



# Berkeley Marina no longer safe haven for feral cats

**S**id footnote to the story I wrote a few weeks ago about young people who were making amazing contributions to our community. Remember Charley Wallace, the 13-year-old Berkeley boy who feeds the feral cats at Berkeley Marina?

Charley is a member of a wonderful volunteer organization called Fix Our Ferals, which is actively reducing the feral cat population in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco. The organization, including dozens of volunteers, were abandoned at Berkeley Marina and fill a couple of years ago when the cops closed the area to the public. (Thanks to the Ferals, that colony is now down to fewer than 10 cats.)

Charley and his friends do more than just feed the cats; they also trap them and whisk them to the vet for spay/neuter surgery. Afterwards, the cats are named. The others are put up for adoption. The Ferals are committed to their colonies to ensure their lives under the watchful eye of Charley and his friends.

Charley loves all the kitties, but his favorite has always been Amanda, a sweet little black-and-white kitty who greets him by nuzzling against his leg. But when he went out last Friday on his regular feeding schedule, Amanda was dead. And the other cats were nowhere to be found.

Amanda's neck was broken, and there were bite wounds on her body. The best guess is that someone let their dog run loose, wreaking havoc on the resident feral cat colony.

As of this writing, four of the missing cats have returned. They were probably so spooked, they hid for a few days before daring to come back. But two cats are still MIA: a Siamese mix named Rocky and a gray tabby named Gus, who was Amanda's inseparable companion. And Charley fears the worst has happened to them, too.

"The problem isn't the dogs," says Charley, "it's the dog owners. There's an area nearby reserved for dogs to run off-leash. Why can't they run their dogs there, and leave the cats alone?"

**'The problem isn't the dogs,' says Charley, 'it's the dog owners. There's an area nearby reserved for dogs to run off-leash. Why can't they run their dogs there, and leave the cats alone?'**

Cats alone?" Most dog owners are responsible people. But there are always one or two who don't seem to realize the fatal consequences of breaking the rules. Either that, or they don't care.

"They do it after hours, when there aren't any cops around," says Charley. "I've seen some of them and asked them not to let their dogs run here, but they ignore me."

The cats aren't the only ones in danger. There are vulnerable

bird nests and rabbit colonies there, too. And in the long run, it's the dogs themselves who will suffer. Every year, it gets harder and harder to find a decent place for your dog to run. (And they do need to run; it's part of what makes a dog a dog.) In San Francisco, they've just banned dogs from running off-leash at Ocean Beach because of danger to the nesting area of a bird called the snowy plover.

It does no one any good to pit dog lovers against cat lovers, rabbit lovers or bird lovers. But if something isn't done, that's what's going to happen.

Responsible dog owners realize this. The BARK, for instance, continually urges its readers not to let their dogs run in unauthorized areas. But all it takes is a couple of jerks to spoil it for everybody.

The only thing that will work is peer pressure. Dog owners need to step up and police each other, not just themselves.

So if you see someone letting their pooch run where it shouldn't, tell them to stop. If

they don't, call the cops. It's in your own interest.

That's the long-term fix. In the short run, something has to be done about the traumatized survivors at the Berkeley Marina. Charley and his friends have decided to move the survivors to new homes in people's back yards. It's a drastic decision, one they hated to make. But last week's incident proved that the Marina isn't safe any longer.

That's where they need our help. Could you provide a home for a feral cat in your back yard? It won't be any bother because it won't want to come inside. And it'll keep other cats out of your yard.

And if you're worried about the local bird population, relax. These are all old, over-the-hill kitties. Their hunting days are far behind them. All they want to do is lie in the sun and munch kibble crunchies with the few teeth they have left.

All you have to provide is food, water, and a warm bed to help it get through the winter. A cardboard box and an old quilt will do nicely.



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In return, you'll get a helpless creature's shy love. Plus the pleasure of looking at yourself in the mirror and seeing a kind person looking back. Give Fix Our Ferals a call at 510-649-9111 or 510-433-9446.

I sure hope this appeal works. It did the last time I wrote about Charley and his group. Anthony Sherman (who, coincidentally, is a 9-year-old classmate of Charley's younger brother Henry at Berkeley Montessori School) read it and decided he wanted to join Fix Our Ferals, too. He called them, and now he and his Grandma Barbara are the regular Saturday feeders at the Marina.

Attaboy, Anthony. Way to step up and take responsibility. Here's hoping there are some grownups reading this who will emulate your example.

E-mail Martin Snapp at [catman@california.com](mailto:catman@california.com) or call him at 510-273-9039.

# An employee of Yosemite's Ahwahnee ... at least for 5 days

**Y**OUNG ON YOUR resume is back in the news. Recently, a poor fellow allowed the head coaching staff at Notre Dame, but, alas, he did things he didn't

know the consequences of. During one's life experience, I am still putting in the resume that I worked at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park. Of course, this won't hold any weight during any future job interview, unless Julia Child is looking for a new sidekick.

Can picture a human resource person asking, "Mr. Young, were you in upper management, a bellman, a restaurateur, or were you, perhaps, an official lookout for grizzly bears?"

To all of the above, "I am, actually, I was a waiter for two of the nine sessions during the holiday sessions during the holiday events. The job was a mere five days."

Why then did you put it on your resume?" Because I like to talk about it. Now, I might not get the job, but I will definitely sell them on the fun next year.

Our family has an interesting association with Yosemite. For years, thousands of Northern California students entered a radio station essay contest where they detailed the inspiring qualities of their teachers. A winner was chosen from each grade and those students' families and the teachers and their families would join us for several days in Yosemite.

Our family acted as hosts. We would ski at Badger Pass, ice skate at Curry Village, hike out to Mirror Lake or walk out to admire the magnificence of Yosemite Falls. Of course, everyone dined splendidly in the grand dining room of the Ahwahnee. Our daughter Amanda lost four teeth during our stays there, usually at dinner time. We think she caught on quickly that the Yosemite tooth fairy paid better dividends than the at-home variety.

A few years later, Mary Ann and I had the opportunity to portray the visiting Squire and his Lady at one of the hotel's annual Holiday Bracebridge Dinners.

They outfitted us in the high fashion statement of Medieval England, which meant itchy green tights for me.

As part of the performance,

we marched into the spectacularly decorated dining room of the Ahwahnee trying to feel as if royal blood was coursing through every vein. As we neared the stage where we occupied the place of honor, we passed our daughters and their grandmother. Getting into the act, they bowed to us. Name me a man today who can say his mother-in-law has bowed to him.

**Yosemite in the winters is less crowded, quieter, more beautiful. And now with the chef's sessions, winter is a far more rewarding time to be there.**

We have never been to Yosemite in the summertime. It is the winters we love. It is less crowded, quieter, more beautiful and now with the chef's sessions, a far more rewarding time to be there.

Actually, the Ahwahnee hosts two events that celebrate wine and food. In November and December, the hotel presents the Vintner's Holidays. During some eight or nine different sessions, well-known winemakers hold wine-tasting seminars daily with each session ending with a gala five-course banquet.

In January and early February, it's time for some of the nation's most respected chefs to strut their stuff. It's pretty much the same format. There are a total of nine three-night and two-night sessions.

During each segment, there are three culinary demonstrations and a gala banquet featuring a menu prepared by the guest chef. These are relaxed, informative and highly entertaining demonstrations. I am not a cook, but after moderating six of these demonstrations, I could become dangerous in the kitchen.

The Ahwahnee has the dates posted for next year's events. Early reservations are advisable. We will definitely be back whether I am in their employ or as a guest. Go to

[www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com), click on special events and you'll find all the information.

While the valley's incredible beauty sings to us, it barely spoke to another recent visitor. A veteran bellman at the Ahwahnee told us about a stern-looking, older woman he once helped off a tour bus. She wasted no time in letting him know what she thought of the trip so far. "Rocks! They brought me all the way up here just to look at rocks!" Go figure. Cheers.



**MIKE CLEARY**  
The Food and Travel Enthusiast

Mike Cleary's column appears every other week in this newspaper. He and his wife, Mary Ann, co-host "The Food and Travel Enthusiasts" radio program at 10 a.m. Sundays on KABL 960 AM. Readers can e-mail Mike at [mc@foodandtravelradio.com](mailto:mc@foodandtravelradio.com).

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# Humor informs the work of Albany artist Amy St. George

**A** LONG WITH THE artistic aspects of color and form, when Amy St. George paints she likes to use found items and humor. And her artistic use of both is clearly visible in the exhibit of her art in the foyer gallery of the Albany Community/Library building. The other aspect of her art is what she calls "domestic bliss."

"Art is my way of communicating without words," she writes in her artist's statement. It continues, "It reveals certain intimacies of my life and creates a world that my family seems to understand. Domestic Bliss is a concept that has evolved from my daily experience and personal surrender to the simplicity of life and the recognition that true bliss is achieved when one lives these moments one at a time. It is this routine that brings color to the tranquil fields of my art in a way that all makes sense at day's end."

And as we chat, it is obvious that her family is the hub, not only of her life, but also of her art.

"My children give me ideas," she says, and adds, "I am much more developed and creative because of my children."



CLARA-RAE GENSER  
Community Folk

Her children also give purpose to her art. "Before I had my family, it seems I didn't have a purpose behind it. It is wonderful how my children respond to it. And even their friends come over and tell me what they see and what they feel in it. Children come from a totally naive and innocent world."

And she smiles as she tells about one of her paintings called "Birth." "The children look at it and ask, 'Where am I?'"

St. George says that since she has had a family she does look at things in a simpler way. "Things don't have to be big and exciting to make happiness," she says, "It can be something quite simple."

"People keep thinking there is something around the corner that will make them happy. But that's not going to do it. We must get back to the simple

things in life and realize how special it is.

She speaks of her use of found objects in her paintings, and her love of humor accompanies her descriptions as she talks about using chicken bones, bike inner tubes and other objects. Describing her painting titled "Dirty Laundry," she explains, "I think humor is important in art as it is in life." And, after a moment's thought she says, "If you can't laugh at yourself you are going to have a tough life."

"Looking at laundry in a spiritual sense," she says, "you are lucky to have laundry at all." She points out the people who do not have the clothing to launder, or the bedding, and so forth. "Doing laundry is no fun, but with a little humor it makes it so much easier."

Amy St. George was born in Green Bay, Wis. Members of her family have lived there for generations, she says. She finds it interesting to go back there and look at old log cabins and imagine "my great-great-grandparents living in them." It was a pioneer family.

Her immediate family moved around a lot, she says. Her father worked for the U.S. Forest Service.

"I was lucky I grew up in beautiful places, and interesting places." She mentions making friends with Indians on reservations when her father worked in North Dakota; they lived in the town of Custer. She remembers their whole front yard full of tumbleweeds of living in Cody, Wyo. on the Shoshone Trail North, next to Stampede Avenue.

"I have seen the rodeo people run with cows and horses through downtown Cody to the rodeo grounds." The people sat out in lawn chairs and watched, she remembers.

Since Amy was allergic to horses — and every furry animal — her parents were finally forced to move. And move they did. First to Arkansas, then Kentucky, and finally to California.

Amy didn't major in art in college, choosing speech pathology at San Jose State. She did some wandering herself, living in Japan for almost three years teaching English, traveling around the world, from the Soviet Union to Germany and other parts of Europe. Until she suddenly found she was very homesick, and came back.

Marriage to Gary Kritikos, a

scientist at a Bayer, and the coming of her children, Zoe and Cassie, plus a stepdaughter, Cara, has brought her the life she loves, and allowed her to go back to her art. Amy has continued to use her own name, St. George, but her children are Kritikos. They attend Marin Elementary School in Albany.

Her joy shows when she describes her home, with a great garden she loves to work in, and the three chickens, Sparkle, Tangerine and Fluffy, which are her children's dear pets, and which eat the flowers in her garden.

"Every morning my oldest daughter goes out to give Sparkle a big hug." Since Mother is allergic to furry animals, their pets include, in addition to chickens, two bearded-dragon lizards and two tortoises.

The garden, she says, she made into an elaborate English garden, but the animals have not been kind to it. Asked if her neighbors minded their having chickens, she laughs and reports that she has spoiled them with the eggs she gives them, so that now they can eat only freshly laid eggs. Although she didn't study

art in college, she has had many classes through the years, that have given her wider and deeper knowledge and understanding of the

"I always take classes," she says, and adds, "I believe her travels have her art. 'I had broken out in environment, expanded' says, 'And I'm not afraid of different ideas.'"

Amy St. George's exhibit at the Community Center will continue through April.

**A correction:** In last column about Peggy McGowan and the Albany swimmer, I wrote that they had won cise classes just now. She says Peggy "We have seen Come in and check this out."

As always, I welcome your put: please give me your esting people, events, etc. forgive me if I don't get it immediately. Sometimes very fortunate and have whole list, and other times scraping. Just now I have small, but I always want more. Please write to me: Pierce St., #443, Albany 94706 or call 510-525-4940. e-mail is crgensen@comcast.net

## Crime

FROM PAGE A2

seen departing in a '99 Jeep.

■ At 5:30 a.m. on Feb. 2 the security guard at 555 Pierce St. reported seeing two subjects attempting to break into a white Honda. When he yelled at them they fled north on Pierce Street.

■ On Feb. 3 a resident on the 700 block of Taft Street reported vandals broke the back window of her white '99 Daewoo Lanos.

■ On Feb. 3 El Cerrito police located a red '82 Toyota 4x4 reported as stolen from Albany. They had a man in custody.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Feb. 4 officers arrested a 38-year-old El Sobrante man on the 500 block of Pierce Street for possession of burglary tools.

## Chamber

FROM PAGE A2

Collins and leaders from other West County cities, will be honored for their community service at special ceremonies to be held in college's performing arts center from 5 to 7 p.m.

### Medical group relocates

The El Cerrito Medical Group, a Chamber member since 1987, has moved its operation from 10690 San Pablo Ave. to 500 San Pablo in Albany.

According to Dr. Andrew Wallach, head of the group, the telephone number of the medical office will remain the same at 510-524-2070.

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## Underpants

FROM PAGE A3

"All of the stories about these three children are unhappy and wretched, and the one you are holding may be the worst of all."

This seems an odd way to advertise books to kids, but it apparently taps into the same morbid strain found in many of the classic childhood stories. In the above Snicket book instead of a witch being rolled down a hill in a barrel of nails, we have a kindly old aunt devoured by leeches in Lake Lachrymose.

The essential difference between these stories and the classic tales is that the traditional message that evil is punished and good rewarded is either reversed or omitted. This is probably a more accurate description of the real world, and it is certainly a reflection of the view held by many writers and educators today that there is neither good nor evil, only situational morality. And often not much of that.

However, the Snicket books are literate and do challenge young readers to learn new words. Some like "copious" are not only used but defined. And the author (whose real name is Daniel Handler) dares to suggest that grammar is worth knowing! As a practicing

pedant, this kind of thing goes a long way toward justifying the works to me.

There are also just plain shoddy books for children as there are for adults. Many series books like "Baby Sitter's Club" and "Sweet Valley Jr. High" are ground out to a formula. Lois Breaud, a longtime elementary school teacher, said these books did get some children reading. She then tried to "veer them off into something better." This is the goal of educators who say the comic book format and humor of the Pilkey books hooks some nonreaders.

THE GOOD NEWS: People in the educational field tell me the classic children's books are still popular as are many worthy newer ones. Breaud calls the Harry Potter books, "the greatest boon in getting children to read in decades."

And the first of J.R.R. Tolkien's monumental "Lord of the Rings" trilogy has come to the movies with the other two planned for successive December releases. These wondrous books will undoubtedly enjoy a resurgence in popularity.

Parents should acquaint themselves and their offspring with the children's department of the Albany Library, where Paul Rockwell has been finding the right books for little people

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for some 20 years. He says the library has a "very diverse collection" of books for all ages. He also believes that, "children's books have a higher literary value than most adult books," which tallies with my observations.

Aside from fine books and the caring assistance of professionals like Rockwell, Sargent, and others, the library has many interesting programs for youngsters, including the ever popular story-telling sessions. Rockwell says high school youths have told him how much they liked the stories he read to them when they were in elementary school.

The images, ideas, and moral values children absorb from these stories and books help

form their characters and determine their adult outlook. The old saying, "As the twig is bent, so grows the bow," is true. In a recent column about her childhood reading of the Pippi Longstockings books, author Adair Lara put it this way: "Her image formed not just part of my childhood, but, I think, part of my character. I was a girl, and girls could lift horses."

So it seems that overall the world of children's books is healthy and is being constantly being enriched by the addition of worthy new titles. As a taxpayer I feel that schools and libraries should let parents buy the Pilkey books for their children. Not everybody I talked to was convinced they were the "gateway" to good books. And I

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## Sanchez

FROM PAGE A1

Sanchez's office. Sanchez's aunt set up a Web site for him at [www.creativeeducation.com/john](http://www.creativeeducation.com/john), where visitors can see photos, read an online journal by Sanchez and find ways to support him. A friend of the family is running a half marathon in honor of

John with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training Program, which raises money to find a cure for the disease and help those who have it.

Any donations have been more than welcome, said Becca Sanchez — the family has had insurance complications which have only recently been cleared up. She also thanked the high-quality doctors and nurses overseeing John's treatment at Alta

Bates Medical Center.

In his hospital room, where he was recovering from his final chemotherapy treatment, thank you cards and giant posterboards of good wishes by students at Albany High School, and pictures of Sanchez and his friends were plastered on the walls. Some friends also stopped by to chat.

Stephanie Roybal and Julie Shan said it was difficult seeing Sanchez get depressed as he goes through treatment.

"It's kind of hard watching anybody feel really depressed," said Roybal. "We stick by him all the time though, because we know he's going to get better."

"It's inspiring to see how well John is doing," said Rhodes-Dreyer. "I have a lot of admiration for him."

A television was playing the movie "Rocky," as Sanchez and Rhodes-Dreyer joked about the high cost of seeing a movie in San Francisco. It could be the scene of any other room of a young man. Visitors, though, have to wear a sterile smock and wash their hands in a special soap before they enter.

The chemotherapy is designed to kill the white blood cells, which are "attacking each other," said John Sanchez. The treatment weakens his immune system, and the hospital carefully guards him against illness.

"He's as close as you can get to boy-in-the-plastic bubble until his immune system comes back," said Becca Sanchez.

John Sanchez's white blood cells were replaced during a fi-



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

JOHN SANCHEZ sits in an isolation room at Alta Bates Hospital with the walls decorated with well wishes from friends and family.

nal treatment Monday and he should be out of the hospital soon.

Having had a lifelong passion for cooking, he intends to enter the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco. He was accepted with a scholarship just out of high school, a rare feat, said his mother.

"It was a bit of a setback not to go to culinary academy, but he'll get there," said Anne Bosch, a teacher at Albany High School. "He has tenacity. He'll get there, it's just a bit of a delay."

"John's just an incredible human being," said his mother. "He has a wonderful spirit. He's spiritual but he's also grown spiritually from this experience. It's unfortunate you have to grow so fast but he's kind of beyond his years at this point."

John Sanchez added that he's thinking positive and is confident he'll get through the process. "It's one of those things you can't do anything about," he said, "so you just have to ride through it."

## CORRECTION

A story about Albany schools API scores in the Feb. 1 paper should have said that a school can receive state funding based on five percent improvement on the API. A school can also receive a score if the number of students tested represent the school as a whole. In addition, individual student scholarships are not related to the API.

## ALBANY PTA NEWS

## Albany PTA Council

Feb. 20, Public Forum, 3:30 p.m., Ocean View Library; 3 p.m., "Paying for Public Education — Whose Job is it?" featuring Kevin Gordon, 4:30 p.m., 14th Assembly District candidates debate sponsored by League of Women Voters; Lora Hancock (D), Charles Hanney (D), Dave Brown (D)

## Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the monthly bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Mitchell at [mm1123@aol.com](mailto:mm1123@aol.com) or call Edna Shipley at 237-0445 or e-mail Edna at [ednam-123@aol.com](mailto:ednam-123@aol.com)

## Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the monthly bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Mitchell at [mm1123@aol.com](mailto:mm1123@aol.com) or call Edna Shipley at 237-0445 or e-mail Edna at [ednam-123@aol.com](mailto:ednam-123@aol.com)

## Cornell Elementary School

Feb. 13, Parent Education Night, Set-Up Units with Children featuring

## CERRITO PTA NEWS

## Bayside Council of PTAs

Membership dues payments should be sent now to Michele Jawad, Bayside Membership Chair, 7717 Eureka, El Sobrante 94603.

## Bayside Middle School

Pay \$7 for \$7 per member. Send a payment of \$7 per member and attach the member's name, address, phone number, student's name, along with e-mail address. Send in your payment to Adams PTA, 5000 Patridge Circle, Richmond, CA 94805.

## Bayside Elementary

Castro is enrolled in eS-1237827554, Albertson's, Target SchoolPop fundraising program. Call Peggy Wilcox at 234-0781 to find out how you can help Castro when you shop.

## Cerrito High

YOSHIO'S PERFORMANCE. The YOSHIO Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band and the YOSHIO Jazz Band will perform at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. The Portola Jazz Band will only play during the performance. Tickets are \$5. Purchase your tickets by calling YOSHIO at 510-234-2251 or on [www.yoshio.com](http://www.yoshio.com).

Feb. 12, PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 10th St. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Feb. 13, PTA Meeting, 7p.m., 10th St. We will be discussing the PTA, by Ann Patchett. Come join

## Budget

FROM PAGE A1

"We know the governor does not want a cut in the preliminary budget, legislators certainly are in mind as they go through the budget. This isn't an unfounded paranoia," she continued, "because there is a similar position in early 1990s where the state took away significant revenue from cities."

The city is lobbying the state Assembly and Senate, unions anyone else who has "access to the state budget process" to the state from taking the money away," she added, "we're going to take any cuts for next year."

worker 7 p.m., multi-purpose room Feb. 20, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

## Marin Elementary School

Feb. 21, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Staff Room Interested parents may receive important announcements by e-mail. Contact Tree Stuber at [marinetree@aol.com](mailto:marinetree@aol.com)

## Ocean View Elementary School

Feb. 28, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library Scrip Orders: Call Kim Denton at 524-3355

## AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 12, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

## AUSD Calendar

Feb. 15, President's Day, NO SCHOOL

Feb. 18, President's Day, NO SCHOOL

THANKS to Albany SchoolCARE (an independent fundraising organization) for their ongoing efforts to sell SCRIP benefitting Albany PTA's.

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or email: [kayweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:kayweinstein@yahoo.com)

## Portola Middle School

Feb. 8, PIZZA NIGHT, 5-8 p.m., Order a pizza from Pizza Roma and mention Portola. Pizza Roma will donate 25 percent of the evening's profit. Pizza Roma is located in the Safeway Shopping Center on Moers Lane and San Pablo Avenue.

## Portola Elementary

Teen Center — Monday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. Fee — \$8 drop in or \$50 monthly. Great activities, trips and special events. Call 510-215-4370 for more information.

E-mail forum — school information and meeting notices direct to your e-mail box. Send your e-mail address and request to be on the mail list to Kathy Travlos [travlos@dnal.com](mailto:travlos@dnal.com).

Items? Call Linda Takimoto at 237-6183 or e-mail: [ltakimoto@yahoo.com](mailto:ltakimoto@yahoo.com).

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# Public opinion sought on development ideas for El Cerrito Del Norte area

**STAFF REPORT**

EL CERRITO — The CFC Corporation will hold a series of public workshops to get opinions from the public on development for the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station area.

BART and the CFC Corporation have entered into a joint agreement to develop a portion of the site and the area development plan will incorporate this portion as well as all the properties within the area bounded by San Pablo Avenue, Key Boulevard, Hill Street and Knott Avenue.

The hands-on, interactive workshops are open to all and will be held in the cafeteria of Windrush School at 1800 Elm St., El Cerrito.

The school is wheelchair-accessible and is located two blocks east of the Del Norte BART station. AC Transit stops are adjacent to the school.

The first workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday and repeated 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday.

At this workshop, participants will be asked to review previous studies for the site, develop design

principles applicable to the local context and identify opportunities and constraints to future development. Participants will also be asked to suggest uses and design concepts for the site.

The workshop will be repeated from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 13 for those who could not attend the first workshop or for participants who want to go through the process again.

The second workshop will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 23.

At this workshop, participants will use the principles established in the first workshops to evaluate alternative development scenarios prepared for the site.

The findings of the workshops and a draft site plan of the area will be presented to the El Cerrito City Council at its March 18 meeting.

For information call Charlie Cowell at 415-446-1803.

# Annual science fair will show projects of students from West County schools

SAN PABLO — The West Contra Costa Science Fair, featuring 175 projects from the secondary schools in the West Contra Costa and John Swett Unified School Districts will be held from Tuesday, Feb. 12, through Thursday, Feb. 14, at Contra Costa College here.

Begun in the late 1950s, the annual fair displays projects of students from seventh to 12th grades, in categories of behavioral, biological, math/computer and physical sciences.

This year's fair will feature the

work of students from Stewart Elementary School, which includes seventh and eighth grades; Adams, Helms, Portola and Carquinez middle schools; Pinole and Crespi junior high schools; and El Cerrito, Kennedy, Pinole Valley and Richmond high schools.

Project setup will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in room GA 40 on the second floor of the gym annex. On Wednesday, about 75 judges from the corporate and educational community, including Chevron, UC Berkeley,

and the USDA will evaluate the projects.

The awards ceremony is open to the public, will be at 7:15 p.m. Thursday at the corner of Castro St. and El Portal Drive. Immediate refreshments will be served to the participants, their families and the public are invited to the projects from 8 to 10 p.m. in room GA 40. Projects will be moved from 9 to 11 p.m.

## Hampton

**FROM PAGE A1**

haar maintained that the project didn't contribute to a pedestrian-friendly area.

"A larger hotel does create an environment that doesn't get us any closer to walkable streets," she said.

Resident Peter Loubal said the hotel expansion is positive, but said he also liked that the planning commission originally voted it down.

"It may have been the best way to protest the inadequate planning process at Del Norte," he said, adding that an area-wide study is needed.

## Child care

**FROM PAGE A1**

but in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, home care actually dropped.

Ronda Garcia, deputy director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council, attributes that last shift to the dot-com boom. When the economy was strong, she says, women left home day care in favor of more lucrative careers.

Since the economic slowdown, she's seen a slight increase in new home-based providers.

Still, demand badly exceeds supply: The council maintains a waiting list of 3,000 children whose parents can't find care that meets their needs.

Overall, one of every three East Bay children who needs licensed day care will find a place, the portfolio estimates.

Parents who can't find care rely on stopgap measures: They may work staggered shifts, turn to relatives and friends, swap sitting services with neighbors, or even leave older children on their own.

"Despite everything that we know about the importance of the early years, we are way far

behind in meeting the needs of California's youngest children," Siegel says.

She and other advocates say they hope the report will spur state and federal lawmakers to invest more money in quality, affordable child care programs.

That sort of help can't come soon enough, says Reanna Getty, a working, single mother who lives in Walnut Creek.

Getty receives a state subsidy to help keep her 2- and 3-year-old sons in home-based care (her older daughter goes home with a friend after school). But the assistance program is scheduled to end in July.

"With my budget, with my income and rent, I can't afford \$1,600 a month. I would only be left with \$20 to take home," she said.

In her search for new arrangements, Getty has found a few subsidized programs that offer affordable care — all with long waiting lists.

"What am I going to do with my kids?" she asks. "My resources are coming to an end, and it's getting frustrating. I don't want to have to quit my job."

Sara Steffens covers youth and family issues. Reach her at 925-943-8048 or

## Economy

**FROM PAGE A1**

We want to keep moving forward. We own the land, and we're on track."

Baer had initially planned on asking monthly rents of around \$1,400 for one-bedroom units at the complex, and \$1,800 for two-bedroom models.

These rents don't fly in today's market, he said. The new plan calls for charging \$200 to \$300 a month less.

The refined plan needs approval from the city's Design Review Board. If approval is granted construction could begin in fall or next spring, he said.

The cost-saving measures being considered for the project — a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments, and some office and commercial space — won't change its overall look or feel, Baer stressed.

Most are "behind the walls," like in plumbing and electricity, he said. "A lot of things won't be

visible to the naked eye."

Other things under consideration are using fewer windows, and a less costly roof tile than the red ceramic originally planned.

"These are not insignificant dollars."

Baer said he is also open to negotiating with the city over using one of the Mill and Lumber parcels for a new city hall — something he's been less certain of in the past.

The housing project is planned for four parcels around San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Lane in central El Cerrito. The parcel bordering San Pablo is the city's short list of sites being considered for a new city hall.

Baer's interest in working with the city on this parcel makes it a legitimate choice for the city hall project, said Jill Keimach, community development director.

Reach Kate Darby Rauch at 510-262-2749 or e-mail krauch@cctimes.com.

We welcome your letters and submissions. Write us at P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, CA 94530; e-mail us at [journal@cctimes.com](mailto:journal@cctimes.com); or send a fax to 510-243-3571.

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King Set ....\$1399

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\$1999 \$2299 \$2399 \$2799 \$4899 \$5999

Queen Set King Set Full Set Twin Set

**Paloma**

Euro-Top One-Sided

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\$2399 \$2799 \$4899 \$5999

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**Juliana**

Euro-Top One-Sided

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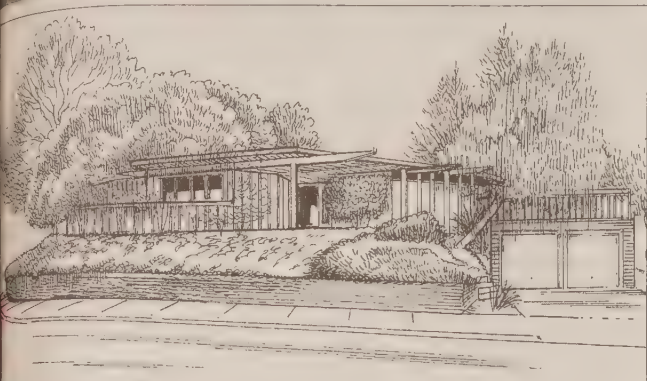
# Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairion, The Piedmonter

Friday, February 8, 2002

Section B

**Weekly Home Sales** Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B8]  
**Open Home Guide** See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B12]



## Unique Piedmont home bright, cheery

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA REALTY

This home has quite a story. It was the model home at the 1956 World's Fair, which was put on each year at the Oakland Exposition Hall in the Greater East Bay Area. This home was built at a

warehouse, disassembled, and brought to the show where it was assembled again. After the show, the home was disassembled again and brought back to the warehouse.

The architect for this concept home was Wayne Littlejohn. The

builder and owner was William M. Freeborn. Mr. Freeborn eventually purchased a lot in Piedmont and re-assembled this wonderful concept home on its permanent site. Mr. and Mrs. Freeborn spent the rest of their lives in this unique home.

This great home has three bedrooms, each with sliding glass doors to the spacious patios. The sun-lit kitchen has many great features, which include

- a unique pull-down burners for cooking
- a wonderful island with butcher-block top
- plenty of storage below
- two ovens and washer/dryer hookups.

The living room has an inviting fireplace and sliding glass doors to the back patio that has a water feature that has been plumbed for a waterfall.

The many windows and skylights make this home bright, cheery and very welcoming.

Enjoy the view of the bay from the generous patio over the two-car garage. For more information, call Ted Normant at Prudential California Realty 510-869-5052.

## New twists to old loans

Selecting the right loan product to suit your needs is one of the most difficult decisions of the mortgage process. The choices are endless. Should you get an adjustable mortgage with a built in rate escalator ride that you may regret?

Or should you take that stable hybrid loan and then ultimately realize that the adjustable was the best deal?

There is one loan product that is both of the best. I call it an adjustable loan. It is called a two/one lender funded down. Adjustable rate mortgages offer low start rates for the first 12 months and then adjust (usually) 1 or 2 percent.



**KAREN SENZIG**  
Mortgage Madness

They are based on an index such as the One Year Treasury Bill or the LIBOR (the London Inter-bank Offered Rate). There are several other indices, but all ARMs have one thing in common, they have a margin (call it the lenders' profit margin) that when added to

See SENZIG, Page B2

## Magnificent Maybeck on the market

COLDWELL BANKER

Architect Bernard Maybeck has often been called the "founding father" of an influential architectural movement that came to be known as the First Bay Tradition.

Those much beloved Edwardian-era homes commonly referred to as "Berkeley Brown Shingles" were largely inspired by the Maybeck's philosophy of organic design.

This philosophy was laid out in a popular book called "The Simple Home," which was written and published in 1904 by Maybeck's friend and first client, Charles Keeler.

Now a substantial part of the home that Maybeck built for Keeler in 1895 is on the market for the first time in 21 years.

The Charles Keeler House stands near the northeast corner of Ridge Road and Highland Place, just north of the University of California campus.

When Maybeck first designed this house for Keeler and his wife in 1894, the North Berkeley hills were almost entirely open and undeveloped, with only a few farmhouses dotting the heavily wooded slopes.

Shortly after the construction of the Keeler House was completed in 1895, other Berkeley professionals began to build homes in the North Berkeley hills that were either designed by Maybeck or influenced by his principals.

Charles Keeler had met Maybeck on the ferryboat that the two men rode across the bay to San Francisco every day. Keeler was "missionary for the arts," and an outspoken advocate of the Arts and Crafts



THE EXTERIOR OF THE CHARLES KEELER HOUSE, AT HIGHLAND PLACE and Ridge Road in North Berkeley, had its original shingles removed and stucco added when Bernard Maybeck remodeled it in 1925. The original high-peaked, "Gothic" gables remain, as well as the banded windows. The current owners added the Arts and Crafts color scheme last year.

This Maybeck creation at 1780-1790 Highland Place in Berkeley will be open this Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

See MAYBECK, Page B2

<b>Oakland</b>  <b>Call This Condo Home!</b> \$249,000 Right corner unit. Two bedrooms, two baths. Hardwood floors with granite counters. New carpet & paint make this one shine! Easy walk to shops, entertainment and transportation. Steven Biasetti (510) 339-8900 x239	<b>Oakland/Lake Merritt</b>  <b>Lake Merritt Condo!</b> \$265,000 Spacious, quiet end-unit 2 bedroom/2 bath condo. Large patio and a peek of the lake. Close to Downtown, BART, China Town, and Jack London Square. Tom Erwin (510) 339-8900 x230	<b>Oakland</b>  <b>Great View!</b> \$385,000 Very charming, very bright 2 bedroom 2 bath, serene setting, newly remodeled kitchen all brand new appliances. Coveted location, Huge private backyard, wonderful for entertaining. Jennifer Lewis (925) 456-5050	<b>Oakland/Lower Temescal</b>  <b>Open Sun. 2-4:30</b> <b>Price Reduction in Lower Temescal</b> \$475,000 This well maintained 4+ BR/2BA Victorian home is centrally located walking distance to BART & shops w/easy access to freeways. Amenities are formal dining, fireplace, unfinished basement & large lot w/vegetable garden. Monica Rogers (510) 339-8900 x243	<b>Oakland</b>  <b>Wonderful &amp; Immaculate!</b> \$545,000 Enjoy this spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath home w/fabulous gourmet granite kitchen, soaring ceilings, and on a large lot w/patio and play area. A fabulous home!! Sharon Williams (925) 456-5075
<b>Oakland/Piedmont Pines</b>  <b>Open Sun. 2-4:30</b> <b>The "Lexus" of New Construction</b> \$995,000 Take a "Test Tour" of this level-in Bay-view New creation in up-scale established neighborhood. Truly unique sophisticated but versatile 4 or 5 bdrm & 4 baths. w/gourmet entrance to one large suite. (not to be missed) D.C. Hodges (510) 531-7667	<b>San Leandro</b>  <b>Six Spanish Style Cottages!</b> \$999,000 6-One bedroom Spanish style cottages all with fireplace, yards, washer/dryers & hardwood floors & garages. Sue Williams (510) 409-6796	<b>Oakland/Piedmont Pines</b>  <b>Open Sun. 2-4:30</b> <b>Piedmont Pines "Prince"</b> \$1,095,000 The crown of contemporary elegance. Gorgeous, level-in Bay view home. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 car garage, state of the art kitchen, exquisite details throughout! Christian Downer (510) 339-8900 x259	<b>Lafayette</b>  <b>Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!</b> \$1,299,000 Enjoy this special Estate w/Contemporary design. Featuring 5 bedrooms including a dramatic master suite w/fireplace, and sauna, 3.5 baths, spacious entry with an atrium, and a floor plan perfect for entertaining. Randy Churchill (925) 975-4360	<b>Piedmont</b>  <b>New Construction!</b> \$1,995,000 Absolutely Stunning! Very unique home with views of SF Bay and Golden Gate Bridge. Quality construction. Approx. 5200 sq. ft., 4 large bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, bonus room, gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, extensive use of hardwood. An Architectural Masterpiece! Bonnie Freitas (925) 997-9062
<b>Danville</b>  <b>A Home Builders Dream!</b> \$1,799,000 Located on one of the best lots in Diablo Ranch Estates. Approved building plans for exquisite single story home with room for a yard, gardens & pool! Great views of the hills and nestled at the foot of Mt. Diablo. Lot is only \$749,000. Jerry & Gabriela (925) 314-1500	<b>Oakland</b>  <b>In the Heart of Oakland!</b> \$1,380,000 Single story building located in a fast moving commercial district. Building is approx. 3156 sq. ft., on .18 acre lot w/parking spaces in the rear. Property is zoned for commercial-retail and can be developed into a multi-level office building. Conveniently Located! Michelle Lin (925) 314-1549	<b>Danville</b>  <b>Open Sun. 1-4 pm Just Listed!</b> \$674,950 4 bedroom, 2 bath, updated kitchen, huge oak floored fam rm w/wet bar. Great yards w/views of park. Move-in condition. Won't last! Sam Ferman (925) 314-1500	<b>Danville</b>  <b>Sycamore Creek Beauty!</b> \$644,950 Enjoy gracious & comfortable living in this spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Featuring an excellent floor plan, a large private yard, and beautifully maintained. The Schlenkerds (925) 314-1502	<b>Oakland</b>  <b>Location, Location, Location</b> \$289,950 Very clean and charming. Sunny kitchen, nook, indoor laundry, formal living and dining rooms, original kitchen, some new windows, & deck with covered patio. Needs TLC but has great potential. Linda Smith (925) 456-5047
<b>Blackhawk</b>  <b>Open Sun. 1-4pm</b> <b>Equine Townhouse!</b> \$609,900 Located in exclusive Blackhawk Country Club w/3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, remodeled gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage, & a large private yard w/custom deck. Janice Dalton (925) 838-2160	<b>Oakland</b>  <b>Mountain house with detached cottage</b> \$499,000 Walking distance to restaurants, shopping & transportation. Updated kitchen w/wood burning stove. Sue Williams (510) 409-6796	<b>Walnut Creek</b>  <b>Open Sat &amp; Sun 12-6 pm</b> <b>Resort Style Living!</b> \$394,500 Come prepared 2 buy & throw out the comps. Not open 4 sale, rare avail. 2BR/2BA unique condo. Over looking a main pool, creek, lake, & country club. 5-Star Panoramic View! Franko M. Ismen (925) 314-1522		



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## Maybeck

FROM PAGE B1

Movement that had originated in England in the later 19th century. The Arts and Crafts Movement extolled the virtues of natural materials, historic details, and hand craftsmanship over the "falseness" of most Victorian architecture. Maybeck had been exposed to this philosophy when he had been a student of architecture in Europe in the 1880s.

The friendship that developed between Keeler and Maybeck after they met in 1892 was to be fruitful for both men. When Maybeck found out that Keeler owned a residential lot in the North Berkeley Hills near the rim of a canyon with a superb view of San Francisco Bay, he offered to design a house for him that would be in keeping with the natural beauty of the setting and based on his organic design philosophy. Keeler agreed, and shortly after he married in 1893, he asked Maybeck to begin work on the project.

The house that Maybeck designed for Charles Keeler was described by the architect himself as a "Gothic House". Indeed, many of the elements of the home's design, such as its steeply pitched gables and open beamed ceilings, were taken from Gothic style houses that Maybeck had seen in his travels in Europe. But this was not just another Gothic Revival style house. It was the prototype for a new and revolutionary system of design, the First Bay Tradition, which would eventually become popular with sophisticated homebuilders throughout the Western United States.

The First Bay Tradition had four guiding principles which, when applied together, distinguished buildings designed with this philosophy from other architectural modes of that era. First, these homes combined historic details with modern building materials and methods. Second, they incorporated "an open use of natural materials, honestly stated", to use Maybeck's own phrase from "The Simple House". Third, each home uniquely suited the needs of its owner, so that the client and architect worked together to create a truly original design. And fourth, each building was integrated with its site and environment.

When the Charles Keeler house was completed, its exterior was sheathed in redwood shingles to blend in with the woody site. A variety of steeply pitched gables punctuated the roofline, including one that resembles a Japanese pagoda. This is one of the first residences on the West Coast to use banded windows (or rows of several plate glass windows side by side) and a poured concrete chimney. When Maybeck remodeled the house after the 1923 Berkeley Fire, he had the shingles removed and stucco surfacing added for fire resistance.

It is on the interior of the Charles Keeler House that the most impressive features of Maybeck's First Bay Tradition remain. The house was legally divided back in 1996 into two condominium units, without detracting from the architectural integrity of the original design. The portion that is being offered for sale now is the bottom one, which is a legal duplex consisting of a 1,900-square-foot upper residence with a 300-square-foot studio apartment below it. The upstairs residence has a total of seven rooms, that have an open, flowing floor plan. These rooms include one-plus-plus bedrooms, two full baths, a large living room, a library, a dining room, and a kitchen.

The most striking feature of the main residence is the floor-to-ceiling, square-latticed, Gothic arched window that fills the rear wall. This breathtaking wall of glass is essentially unchanged from the original 1895 design, although it now opens out onto a balcony and has a view of the mature redwoods that have grown up on the rear of the lot over the past century. The entire interior of this unit has natural redwood paneling, open beamed cathedral ceilings, and hardwood floors. There are two baronial scale fireplaces (a Maybeck signature), that work as well as they did when they were installed in 1895.

Wayne and Jacqueline Bloomquist bought this unit in 1981. It had been divided into two apartments in the 1950's, and six months ago they reopened the floor plan to give it a more free-flowing quality the way Maybeck originally designed it.

They also made some other historically sensitive improvements over the years, including a remodeling of the kitchen, updating both baths, installing a new electrical system, completing an earthquake retrofit, and painting the exterior in an authentic Arts and Crafts color scheme of pottery with forest green trim.

The Bloomquists will miss many of the aesthetic qualities of the Keeler House, as well as the convenience of living there. Jacqueline said she most enjoyed "all the redwood, with its special fragrance, the rich architectural details, and the peace and quiet of this place."

Wayne says he'll miss "the great location, within walking distance of downtown, the UC campus, and all the North Berkeley shops and restaurants."

The section of the Charles Keeler house now on the market is located at 1780-1790 Highland Place. It includes one space in a two car garage, which is accessed from Ridge Road.

The listing agent is Kim Marienthal, at the North Berkeley office of Coldwell Banker. He can be reached at 510-981-3036, or e-mail him at kim@marienthal.com.

The asking price is \$875,000. There will be an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. this Sunday.

## What happens after my offer is accepted?

### ■ Finding a home to buy and negotiating the purchase is rarely easy.

After you've successfully completed the negotiations, it's time to celebrate. As soon as the euphoria wears off, you may be wondering what happens next.

Within a few days after the sellers accept your offer, your good faith deposit check is cashed. A neutral depository holds the money until the sale is either closed or cancelled. Who holds your money depends on where you're buying. Some states, like California, use escrow accounts to handle the financial aspects of a home sale. In other states, your broker or attorney may take care of these details.

Make sure that you have sufficient funds in the account on which you wrote the deposit check. If you need to transfer funds from one account to another, let your agent or transaction coordinator know.

Your contract should include contingencies to protect you. A contingency is a condition that

must be satisfied for the sale to go through. If a contingency can't be satisfied, the sale is usually cancelled and the buyer's deposit returned.

Common contract contingencies are for inspections and financing. An inspection contingency usually entitles the buyers to inspect the property to their satisfaction. A financing contingency makes the purchase contingent on the buyers obtaining the financing they'll need to close the sale. Your contract may include other contingencies, such as for the sale of another property.

**HOUSE HUNTING TIP:** Contingencies should have time periods for performance. For example, the inspection contingency might run for 7 or 10 days following acceptance. Ask your real estate agent to prepare a summary sheet detailing the important contract dates. Most contracts include a provision stating that time is of the essence. This means that if you fail to meet a deadline, you could jeopardize the transaction.

Even though you may have a week or more to complete inspections, you should order a

home inspection promptly after your offer is accepted. The home inspector may recommend further inspections, which will take additional time to complete.

A delayed closing can wreak havoc on your moving plans. In most cases, the buyers can't move in to their new home until title to the property is transferred to them from the sellers. The title transfer doesn't occur until all of the buyers' money is accounted for. Most buyers use mortgages to pay for a good portion of the purchase price. Snafus in the mortgage process are the most common reason a closing is delayed.

To obtain a mortgage, both you and the property you're buying must be acceptable to the lender. Stay in close touch with your lender or mortgage broker to make sure that you have furnished all the required financial documents. Also follow up to ensure that the property appraisal is ordered quickly.

The lender will require that you obtain a fire insurance policy to cover the home, with the lender named as loss payee. The lender

DIAN HYMER  
HOUSE HUNTING

will also require that you obtain title insurance policy to protect the lender's interest in the property. It's a good idea for buyers to purchase a title insurance policy to protect their own interests.

During the course of a home purchase transaction, a title company will inspect the title records to make sure there are no liens or other claims that could receive good title to the property. You will need to decide if you want to hold title to the property.

**THE CLOSING:** How you close to real estate has many consequences. Consult with an attorney or tax attorney before this decision.

Dian Hymer is author of *Coming Out, the Complete Home Buyer's Guide*, a Chronicle Books. She is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair home office. She can be reached at 510-339-4777.

## Senzig

FROM PAGE B1

the current index rate gives you your note rate.

The problem with an adjustable rate mortgage is usually the life cap which is commonly five or six points (a point equals 1 percent) over your initial start rate or is lender stated. This generally means your life cap will range between 11 and 13 percent.

With most adjustable rate mortgages, in a worse case situation, you could reach your life cap within the first five years of your mortgage term.

With the two/one lender funded buydown, you receive the advantages of an adjustable rate mortgage low start rate in the first year. One point higher the second year and the third through thirtieth year is your note rate. For example, the actual note rate is 8 percent. The first year's payments would be based on the initial rate at 6 percent, the second year at 7 percent and the third through 30th year at 8 percent.

What's the catch? The two/one buydown has a "note rate" that is normally 1 percent higher than the prevailing 30-year fixed rate at the same cost. And, while there are some programs available for jumbo loans (loans over \$300,000), although most

lenders limit the buydown to conforming loan amount limits.

This is a loan that we often recommend to first time homebuyers who are making that leap from a rental payment to a mortgage payment. It allows easier first years payments out the door stress of a high life cap that could strangle them down the road.

What's the newest twist? In our current market, where 30-year fixed rates are as volatile as they are and housing prices are still about the highest in the nation, fewer people can qualify at the higher interest rates. Some lenders are allowing borrowers to qualify at 1.5 percent below the note rate.

In addition, some lenders have accelerated the program to eight-month adjustment periods (rather than 12 months) in order to drop the initial interest rate to as low as 5.75 percent.

That little quarter point can save the borrower hundreds of dollars in the first year alone. A little advantage in the world of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. She can be reached 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-3814, e-mail at ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

## Clearing clutter? Harden your heart

BY PETER HOTTON

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Have you broken all your resolutions, and still have an attic, basement, garage, tool house, and garden house full of junk that you cannot bear to get rid of?

Your situation is similar to mine, who, in my work, collects more useless stuff than you can imagine and who is equally reluctant to dump his treasures. Luckily, my wife would be happy to see everything go.

The things are not important if you have not used them in five years. Harden your heart but not your head, and dump old things that have become obsolete or just never used. If you need something a day or week after your throw it out, too bad. There is no use in crying over it. Just buy another.

Some of the things that come to mind that you or anyone else will not miss: old mattresses (moldy probably, if they are in the basement); old over-sized speakers, those huge things that tweeters and woofers made obsolete; old tools that have rusted so badly that they are useless and unrepairable, like the big hand saw left out in the rain for a month; old bikes that you might get a few bucks for, but it's doubtful you'll ever make it to the

bike dealer; kids' playthings; the new generation will not play with. The tin and metal and iron ones are worth saving, but they might be worth good money some day; old doors, which be able to stay if you are replacing some improvements to the house.

But if they are the flimsy hollow-core types, they belong no house, books.

My wife and I have a good twice a year taking out boxes of the case, each of us has a pile 3 or 4 feet high, including other's pile, and putting 95% of them back.

All it takes is a hard termination, resolution, and But think of the benefits and crannies for rodents to hide in the basement; the attic to melt from the heat; tools in the tool house and den stuff in the garden shed place where you can park.

Perhaps, you say, that's real, love seat, or casual might be a priceless item should not be thrown out. Good point, but if it is a real treasure, it should be house, not the attic and not the basement.

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## Real Estate & Home

A Weekly Publication of  
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## HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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**On A Street Of Dreams!**  
Open Sunday - last open before offers! On a treasured street in Southern El Cerrito - lined with trees and just one block long - lies this much-loved home. You'll find a living room with fireplace, formal dining area, eat-in kitchen, attached garage, large sunny yards, a new forced-air furnace to fend off the cold and lots more! 2BD/1 Updated Bath. Close to BART, the brand new Plaza and area schools. A wonderful find!

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**5236 Locksley Ave., Rockridge**  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Rockridge home in excellent condition. Two bedrooms, two baths with additional room with closet for third bedroom or office. Updated kitchen, formal dining room, level garden & garage. Offered at \$479,000

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**521-8181 523-1010**

**OAKLAND**  
4256 SUTER ST. CONVENIENTLY LOCATED. 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath, approximately 1201 square feet. Large living & dining room, fireplace, laundry area. Long driveway, tool sheds. \$299,950. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

1362 E. 27th. 7 UNITS. New Chinatown units on large lot. Potential & great location. 3 bedroom manager house, studio, 1 bedrooms & 2 bedrooms. Sharon Greene, 510-523-9421 or Mary Ann Herber, 510-568-2040.

**COMING SOON! FIXER IN OAKLAND.** \$150,000. Range 2/3 bedrooms - you decide. For more information, call Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

1323 - 82nd Ave. GREAT RENTAL LOCATION! 2 updated units, each with 2 bedrooms. \$255,000. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

**PANORAMIC WAY. 2 LOTS.** These lots are located side by side in a beautiful wooded area with a great view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Priced at \$45,000. Kathy Ghiselli, 510-522-6425.

**CASTRO VALLEY**  
16725 SELBY DR. HIGH ON A HILL. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 1550 sqft. new flooring, new patio, hot tub, fencing. Great schools, easy access to 580, great commuter home. Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

**RICHMOND**  
OPEN SUNDAY 1-5  
2136 SAND DOLLAR DR. SF LOFT-STYLE LIVING IN MARINA BAY! Wonderful townhome in Marina Bay "Bay front". Walk to Marina Clean & Sharp with master suite, custom closets & dreamy upgrades. Great room features slider to private deck. THIS IS THE ONE! \$329,850. Michael Studebaker, 877-865-2279.

**COMING SOON! 2+ bedroom, 2+ bath** Marina Bay "Sunset Pointe" single family home. Peek of the bay views, spiral staircase, many upgrades, landscaped yard. Michael Studebaker, 877-865-2279.

**SAN RAMON**  
COMING SOON! Large home near Golf Course, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, designer options. In the process of being refreshed. HALF MILLION DOLLAR RANGE. For more information, call Stan Lockhart, 510-748-1805.

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Moon Tam 747-1620  
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# A look at some of our heroes

over 388 in a series of true  
es in real estate  
So many good people. We  
Norman moving at the speed  
ent. There isn't much time left  
the open house. He paints  
the front porch, replaces a hinge  
the garden gate, nails down a  
threshold. He talks to himself,  
not to us ("Why, oh why did I  
could do this?") ("Can't talk  
mind's too full."), all the while  
going around over his checklist.

We don't need to stay longer but  
he become so attached to the  
Norman in hyper-motion  
look around for something to  
us. The front lawn looks long,  
I think it could stand edging,  
some scissors and begin  
moving as I do how very  
we love completion people,  
who live to get things off their  
ASAP. Norman is one.

We know others. No sooner had  
ed Kevin that the carpet in his  
room should be removed, he  
under it refreshed, then he had  
his large spindle bed,  
the room, and moved to  
room to sleep.

Paul who just had to fix the  
ch doors that wouldn't close  
properly, who painted the second  
window trim from the inside  
the roof was too steep to  
He wanted the house to  
light.

many smart, thinking people,  
at information gathering. Anet  
dispense, on and on, what's  
the termite report, how a hot wa-  
heater must be strapped, who  
refinish the floors. We talk about  
tract elements, the "flake  
as Anet says, and agency,  
attribution. Through it all, our  
clients remain attentive.

Her eyes do not glaze over; in-  
stead I am impressed every  
time they take in and retain what  
I say. Home warranties, video-  
sewer lines, mud sills—all

So many good experiences. I  
Anet to recall a client she es-  
pecially enjoyed, just one, whoever  
comes to mind. "Rick" she an-  
swered, "I really enjoyed Rick."

Rick and his wife Pam's pur-  
chase several years ago was likely  
the worst we ever went through, no  
of theirs or ours. The experi-  
ence comes rushing back to me as  
he remembers, too. "Rick was  
thoughtful, so smart, so clear  
and calm. It was an awful

little wonder Pam was having a  
time. "With Rick," Anet said,  
never "Why aren't you fixing  
the furnace." It was instead "We're  
together." He dealt well with  
rough situation. He kept his sense  
humor. We really worked well as

turned up now, Anet kept go-  
ing. "It's kinda like taking a trip with  
phone you don't know very well  
talking out that you travel well  
together. Because everyone does  
right, everyone has a good time.  
It's how it was with Rick."

So many new things to see. We  
were there when Pam & Rick's  
huge trees were cut down, watch-  
ing the man in the crane and the  
ground crew scurrying to remove  
the heavy limbs and trunk and  
brush. We wouldn't have missed it.  
And we were there when Jonathan  
and Mary Ann's house was lifted up  
on steel beams so a new founda-  
tion could be poured. That was re-  
ally something to see.

We've been there lots of times,  
at many houses, when the orange  
shag carpeting was removed, the  
new plaster smoothed on, the  
heavy brown curtains thrown away.  
We got to see the kitchen turn  
white, the windows cleaned, wicker  
placed on the front porch. It is  
thrilling, absolutely thrilling.

So many funny, fun experiences.  
Once during an inspection of the  
house Becca and Ken were buying,  
we tried out the stacking washer  
and dryer to see how long a full  
load would take. Becca loaded her  
laundry and turned the dial, but  
nothing happened.

Figuring it was not plugged in,  
the three of us wiggled in a very  
tight space trying to reach the out-  
let behind the washer/dryer. Body  
contortions were necessary, long  
reaches, forward tipping. Heavy and  
precarious, we almost lost the unit  
onto its face. We couldn't talk for  
laughing.

At a farmhouse, for fun and at-  
mosphere, Anet and I don wrap-  
around aprons for our open house  
and place a two-crust apple pie on  
the open window sill. Someone  
brushes it as she walks by and the  
pie falls out onto the ground. Gig-  
gles, retrieval.

At a house with an upstairs bed-  
room lined with knotty pine, the  
stager makes a cowboy room. She  
brings in a cot, a small tree stump  
for a table, puts a green enamel-  
ware coffee cup on it. She hangs up  
a denim jacket and cowboy hat.  
We play the old movie "Shane" on  
the TV during the open house.

Cleaning out the basement with  
Marge, now that was a stellar ex-  
perience. We loved Marge, then in  
her mid-eighties, and her compan-  
ion, Jessie, who was 93. The base-  
ment had to be cleared prior to the  
move; Marge intended to give it a  
go on her own, and we said we'd  
be there.

How we laughed that day. We  
opened boxes to find forgotten trea-  
sures, much of it materials collected  
for crafts, tiny pine cones and shells,  
fabric, ribbons and thread. We were  
gay, we were happy to be together,  
especially to be working on a pro-  
ject, getting something done.

People give us good things.  
Bob, for instance. When I wanted  
to know how far away we could see  
from Norman's house, I called Bob,  
a great resource.

Gratifyingly, he knew exactly  
how to find out: Go to a Web site  
that calculates distance to the hori-  
zon, plug in the elevation, and learn  
that the vast view in this case ex-  
tends out 33 miles.



**TARPOFF AND TALBERT**  
True Experiences

Jerry, having discovered that he  
and Anet share a fondness for sin-  
gle malt scotch, sets up a tasting of  
several, in tiny glasses, at 10 in  
the morning. It was a little early for  
scotch, but the only time we could  
get together that week, and listen-  
ing to Jerry and Anet oh-ing over  
the samples was wonderful, even  
at that hour.

Ry didn't want the farmhouse  
table from her kitchen, didn't want  
to take it with her, so she gave it to  
us. Paired up with three rush seat  
chairs, a gift from Harriet, it has  
graced many a listing, is in residence  
now at Andrea's, a good addition.

Nina and Steven ordered us a  
custom cake. When we went to see  
what the floors in their house looked  
like when released from the wall to  
wall carpeting, they presented it to  
us. "Thank you, Pat & Anet" it said  
in frosting on the top. No one ever  
gave us a cake before. We loved it.  
Such good fortune, and continuing.

Anet Tarpo and Pat Talbert are li-  
censed real estate agents who spe-  
cialize in single family houses. They  
also offer hourly real estate consul-  
ting and coaching. They can be  
reached by e-mail at [patanet@mlr.net](mailto:patanet@mlr.net)  
or by phone at 510-653-2050.

## Boze earns 'Seniors Specialist Designation'



CENTURY 21 HERITAGE REAL ESTATE

**NEW SENIOR REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST.** Cindy Boze, center, Senior Sales Consultant at Century 21 Heritage Real Estate receives her Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation from broker Phil Weingrow, right, as broker-owner Sereta Churchill, left, offers her congratulations.

CENTURY HERITAGE REAL ESTATE,  
FINE HOMES & ESTATES

Seniors who need advice  
about their homes and rental  
properties can turn to Cindy Boze,  
a Senior Sales Consultant with  
Century Heritage Real Estate, Fine  
Homes & Estates in Montclair.

The Senior Advantage Real Es-  
tate Council in Murphys, Califor-  
nia recently awarded Boze the Se-  
niors Real Estate Specialist (SRES)  
professional designation.

Seniors Real Estate Special-  
ists help seniors make decisions

that deal with issues like:

- selling the family home
- buying rental property
- managing the capital gains and estate tax implications of owning real estate
- obtaining a reverse mortgage
- moving to a senior community

"By earning the SRES designation, Cindy has demonstrated that she has the requisite knowl-  
edge, experience and expertise  
to be a seniors real estate spe-  
cialist," said broker Phil Weingrow.

The Senior Advantage Real Estate Council tracks the special issues and needs of senior property owners and provides education to Realtor who make seniors an important focus of their business. The SRES designation was introduced in 1997 and is nationally recognized.

Boze can be reached at 510-339-8900 ext. 217. More information about the council is available by calling 800-500-4564 or at the council's Web site, [www.seniorsrealestate.com](http://www.seniorsrealestate.com).

## How to highlight a house

■ Putting the best face on your home may be the deciding factor in getting the best price

BY JUDY ROSE  
KNIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

### Kitchens

- Clear the counters of all small appliances.
- Take everything off the refrigerator.
- Remove the counter microwave and store it.
- Hide exposed trash cans, canisters of utensils and pet dishes.
- Wash all cabinets, including knobs.
- Touch up woodwork with polish or paint.

### Living and dining rooms

- Remove any toys or office supplies.
- Cut by half any knickknacks on shelves or windowsills.
- Open the space by removing furniture.
- Paint walls and ceilings light colors.

### Children's rooms

- Store toys in closets.
- Remove posters from walls.

### Family room

- Remove clutter from bookcases.
- Take throws and afghans off the couch and chairs.
- Clean the fireplace and mantel.

### Bathrooms

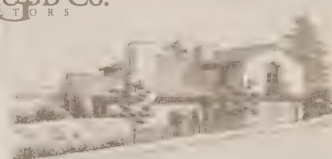
- Deep-clean the tub and shower.
- Hide toothbrushes, bar soap and other hygiene products.
- Bring in fluffy new towels.
- Keep spray freshener handy.

Please recycle  
this newspaper.

## Don't miss Open Homes on B12

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NEW LISTING



**1834 Leimert Blvd., Oakland**  
OPEN Sunday 2-4:30. Oakmore Mediterranean boasts Old World detailing and spectacular views. Four bedrooms, three and one half baths including complete au-pair suite. Tiered private garden and patio with level yard.  
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3263 Madeline Street  
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\$235,000

For a virtual tour of this home, visit me at [www.NahidMBH.com](http://www.NahidMBH.com)



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## A look around the real estate community

BY BOBBIE REID  
CORRESPONDENT

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

### ATTENTION PUBLIC

#### Alameda Inform Meeting

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and the

discussion of important real estate, economic and community concerns. The Inform is dedicated to helping Realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact **Kristen McMahan** of AAR at 510-523-7229.

#### Alameda Museum Lectures

From architecture to windows, the Alameda Museum provides lectures for everyone who loves homes. The slide lectures are narrated by prominent Bay Area authors and historians.

The museum is located on

Alameda Avenue near Park Street in Alameda. The series begins in February and continues through June. Thursday, Feb. 28 is the date of the first lecture in the series. Watch this column for more details or call 510-748-0796 for information.

#### Do It Yourself

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are evening classes on weekdays and daytime classes on the weekends. Feb. 9 through 17 will offer

See REID, Page B5

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS



**921 Aquarius Way, Montclair**  
Offered at \$1,175,000  
Open Sunday 2-4:30

**ANIAN PETTIT TUNNEY**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE  
OFFICE: 510.339.0400/217  
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Visit [GRUBBCO.COM](http://GRUBBCO.COM) for a Photo Tour of this and other current listings.

**The GRUBB Co.**  
REALTORS



**927 Sunnyhills Road, Crocker Highlands**  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. An exquisitely remodeled English Tudor with beautiful traditional architectural details throughout. Gourmet chef's kitchen with top of the line appliances. Gorgeous hardwood floors, three spacious bedrooms, full baths and a first floor den. Professionally designed garden with fountain.

Offered at \$989,000

**KATIE S. HARMON** 510.339.0400/302  
**ANGELA WEI GRUBB** 510.339.0400/222  
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**BERKELEY HILLS REALTY**

**Berkeley, 1912 Sacramento. New Listing! Open Sun., 2-4.** Vacant, rent at current market rates. Brown-shingled duplex on large lot. Remodeled kitchen & bath in upper 1-bdrm/1-bath unit, remodeled bath & some original woodwork in lower 2-bdrm/1-bath unit. Convenient to freeway, BART, & campus. 7 blocks from Shattuck Ave.

See virtual tour at [www.berkhills.com](http://www.berkhills.com)  
Bill & Tracy • 524-9888 x33 \$395,000



**Oakland, Parkwoods Condos - 300 Calaveras #313. New Listing! Open Sun., 2-4.** Beautiful floor 2-bdrm, 2-bath "Piedmont" model with ceilings. 2 sep. mstr bdrm suites. Sun-filled gourmet kit., balcony, gas frpl + lots more amenities incl. pool, sauna, hot tub, gym, 2 pkg spaces & express bus to S.F.

Denise Milburn • 524-9888 x35 \$349,000

**Berkeley, 1519 Oxford, Unit J. New Listing! A rare opportunity!** Sunny, spacious flat in co-op. Best North Berkeley neighborhood. 2 bedrms, 1.5 baths. Gorgeous stained glass window in dining room. Living room with fireplace and bookcase. Kitchen with tiled counters. Quiet top unit; no shared walls. Viewing, Feb. 14.

Maya Trilling • 524-9888 x18 \$349,000

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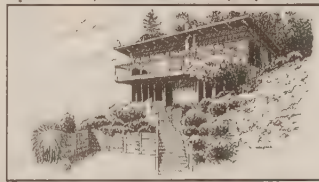
LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA

## MARVIN GARDENS REAL ESTATE

When it's your move ...



**EL CERRITO, 1512 Norvell St. \$339,000**  
Don't be deceived—this is a beauty! Conveniently located, this charming 2 bedroom has many unique features: a huge L-shaped lot, beautiful landscaping, specially patterned hardwood floor and a skylight in the living room.  
Open Sun. 2-4, Herman Sun (510) 559-2929



**BERKELEY 3444 Dwight Way \$639,000**  
COMING ON THE MARKET FEBRUARY 14TH  
Sophisticated 3 bedroom/2.5 bath with pano views. Master suite, 2 fireplaces, custom kitchen. Includes adjacent lot for privacy or expansion.  
Preview online @ [www.marvingardens.com](http://www.marvingardens.com)  
Luanne Warner (510) 527-2700 x29

7502 Fairmount Ave.  
El Cerrito • (510) 527-9111



**RICHMOND, 348 Hayes St. \$249,000**  
Spacious 3 bedroom home on quiet north & East street. Art deco touches throughout, fireplace, formal dining. Updated kitchen, French doors to garden.

Open Sun. 2-4, Denise Blag (510) 559-2908



**OAKMORE 4101 Waterhouse Road \$525,000**  
New listing! Wonderful English Tudor circa 1930. Great floor plan, pleasant spaces, incredible storage. 2 bedroom/1 bath plus a quiet master retreat w/private bath.  
Open Sun. 2-4:30, Kathie Berg (510) 527-2700 x34

1577 Solano Ave.  
Berkeley • (510) 527-2700

Visit our web site at [www.marvingardens.com](http://www.marvingardens.com)

## TEMPLETON LEVERETTE COMPANY

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### KENSINGTON



#### 37 Highland Blvd., Kensington

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath 1967 built contemporary style home enjoys magnificent views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Mt. Tamalpais, the Bay Bridge and glistening city lights. Japanese style landscaping, excellent home for entertaining.

Deborah Matthews x134

\$675,000

3070 Claremont Ave.  
510.652.2133  
[www.templetonleverage.com](http://www.templetonleverage.com)

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**CHRISTIE'S**  
GREAT ESTATES



sent "Record Keeping STRATEGIES Workshop. The workshop is led by Enrolled Agent, Audit Litigation Specialist, **Paul Kent**. The main focus is on small to medium businesses. The purpose is to educate, inform and involve the taxpayer in the process. Attendees will learn the latest strategies, how to formulate deductions and little known areas inside the tax code that can reduce taxes. The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 27. To find out more or make a reservation call **Alan Huty** at 510-791-8962. *Home Buying 101*

Attend a free first time home-

buyer's workshop. Senior Loan Consultant Stan Johnson of First Security Loans presents ongoing seminars for those interested in learning the ins and outs of homebuying. A variety of topics are covered, including how to buy for no money down. To register for a future seminar call 510-614-2433.

#### REALTORS RELIEF EFFORT

The National Association of Realtors won the Association Advance America 2002 Award of Excellence for NAR's efforts on behalf of the families of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The fund col-

lected and distributed more than \$8.19 million to aid the payment of housing costs for families. Donations to the Realtors Housing Relief Fund came from realtors across the country. Every dollar was used to make sure the families of victims kept their homes.

#### DRE TESTS AT OAR

The Oakland Association of Realtors presents a half-day seminar to renew your real estate license. Attend and earn all 45 DRE credit hours at once. The seminar includes Agency, Ethics, Trust Funds and Fair Housing. The instructor will

be "The Real Estate Guys" talk show host, **Charlie Krackeler**. The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, March 8. For more information about attending to renew your license call 1-800-54-RENEW.

#### BROKER LICENSE

New state regulations now make it faster and easier to get a broker license. Attendees will learn changes and revisions, math shortcuts and test tips. Receive live class test preparation with instructor Minnie Lush. For more information call Executive Programs at 1-800-416-1996.

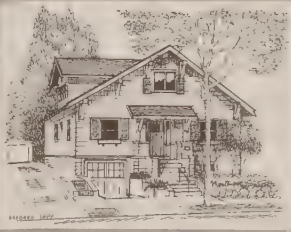
#### WCR LUNCHEON

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter monthly meeting date is Friday, Feb. 8. The meeting begins with networking at 11:30. The location is the Ark at Pier 29 on 29th Avenue in Oakland (at the foot of the Park Street Bridge). February's speaker is Tax Consultant Anthony Taylor. Learn the latest information regarding taxes. For reservations call WCR President, **George Johnson** of Ameristar Financial at 925-314-8314

See REID, Page B10



## Open Sunday!



5743 Kales Avenue, Oakland

### Rockridge Craftsman

Just above College Ave.

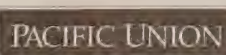
3+ bedrooms / 2 baths  
deep backyard

Offered at  
**\$527,000**

**Julie Nachtwey**

[www.julienachtwey.com](http://www.julienachtwey.com)

(510) 540-8743



## RECENT SALES



2483 CORDOVA STREET  
OFFERED AT \$449,000  
*I represented the seller*

701 ROSEMOUNT ROAD  
OFFERED AT \$649,000  
*I represented the seller*



5660 BALBOA DRIVE  
OFFERED AT \$769,000  
*I represented the buyer*

AND... 5720 MORAGA AVENUE  
OFFERED AT \$530,000  
*I represented both buyer and seller*



**Kathleen Callahan**  
ASSOCIATE BROKER  
510/339-6460 EXT343  
510/595-9119

## New Upper Rockridge Listing! Open Sunday • February 10 • 2-4:30pm



### 6156 Ocean View Drive, Oakland

This terrific 6-year old gem is nestled amid million dollar homes in the highly desirable Upper Rockridge neighborhood. The stylish contemporary craftsman has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, fabulous architecturally designed home office, large family room, decks, courtyard, & a Tuscan-like view. Move right in!



Offered at **\$659,000**

For more information please call

**Dee Knowland**  
Senior Sales Associate  
(510) 339-6460 x318

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DAMON TERRY



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LILIA A. MARQUEZ



VM (510) 433-7248

PENNY SCHULTZ



VM (510) 286-7504

JOHN BELL



VM (510) 287-9856

JOAN SIMMONS



VM (510) 287-2515

PETER PAUN



VM (510) 869-4632

DOLORES THOM



VM (510) 835-6080

DEMETRIUS WILSON



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Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home.

## NEW CROOKED HIGHLANDS LISTING



**800 CREED ROAD, OAKLAND**  
Charming picture perfect traditional 3+ bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, Updated kitchen, sunny breakfast room, formal living and dining room. Open Sunday from 2-4:30 PM  
**Offered for \$625,000**



**Linda Van Drent, CRS**  
Broker Associate  
International Presidents Elite  
510-913-7098

**COLDWELL BANKER**

**Open Sunday 2-4**

**6200 McBryde Ave. • Richmond View**



**\$330,000**

Enjoy a peaceful country lifestyle in this charming updated three bedroom, two bath home next to Wildcat Canyon park. This beautiful setting is just minutes to freeway, schools and shopping.

**Prudential**  
California Realty

**Carol Heath-Kim**  
(510) 525-2346



**560 Valle Vista Open Sunday, Feb. 10th, 2-5**

**\$449,000**

**Big Brown Shingle**  
Oakland's  
Rose Garden Neighborhood



**Just Listed!!!**



**Adrienne Nash, CRS**  
Oakland Native, Oakland/Berkeley Specialist  
510-763-4060

- \* Wonderful, sunny 3+ bedroom 2.5 bath home.
- \* Beautiful refinished wood floors throughout.
- \* Living room with fireplace, formal dining room w/alcove.
- \* Spacious eat-in kitchen.
- \* Au-pair, extended family or work quarters downstairs.
- \* Great location. Friendly neighbors. Walk to everything.

**Visual Tour & Full MLS**  
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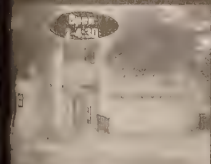
**Tricia Swift**

(Formerly of Templeton Leverette Co.)

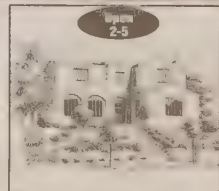
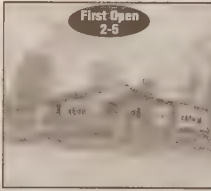
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[tswift@grubbco.com](mailto:tswift@grubbco.com)

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
PREMIERS  
International



**6100 ESTATES 3BR/2+BA**  
\$719,000  
Piedmont-side-of-Montclair. Tastefully updated w/Bay view, eat-in kitchen & sunny patio w/flowering garden; perfect for entertaining. Open Sunday.  
Michael Thompson 510-339-4700



**1790 HIGHLAND PLACE, BERKELEY**  
\$675,000  
Famed architect Bernard Maybeck designed home built in 1895 for Charles Keeler was recently converted to 3 condos. One, a duplex used as a single residence, the other a studio apartment. Being sold as a package.  
Kim Marienthal 510-486-1495

**5364 HILLTOP CRESCENT 2BR/1BA**  
\$575,000  
Delightful Upper Rockridge Cape Cod 2BR/1BA + large downstairs room & 2nd bath, FDR, wood floors, eat-in kitchen, lovely yard w/level yard, 2-car garage. Open Sunday.  
Vicky Faulk 510-339-4700

**5223 BELVEDERE STREET**  
\$299,000  
Maxwell Park. Spacious one-level Bungalow w/3BR, FDR, w/built-in china cabinets & wood floors. Large level yard has loads of potential & is waiting for a gardener's green thumb. Open Sunday.  
Charles Hicks 510-339-4700

**32 NEVA COURT, MONTCLAIR**  
\$998,000  
4BR/2.5BA Gorgeous Montclair Traditional designed by Mark Becker. w/level yard. Formal dining room, home office + HWF & coved ceilings.  
Darcy Diamantine 510-339-4700



**BERKELEY HILLS**  
\$1,075,000  
View of GG Bridge, open, designer home great for entertaining; separate 2BR detached artist's studio, lovely landscaped gardens.  
510-339-4700

### OPEN SUNDAY



**13848 CAMPUS, OAKLAND/RIDGEMONT**  
4BR/2.5BA \$998,000 SUN 2-4  
Dramatic Contemporary built 2000. Overlooks Leona Open Space. Custom Kitchen, deck. Near golf. Easy commuting.  
Rita Zwerdling 510-486-1495

**3BR/2.5BA SUN 1-4** ..... \$439,500  
**1977 ASCOT DR., #6, MORAGA**  
Mediterranean-style, spacious townhouse only 15 years old. Great floor plan, large eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, FP, skylights.  
Elena Stone ..... 510-339-4700

**FIRST OPEN 1:30-4:30** ..... \$149,000  
**10 MOSS AVE. #32**  
New Listing! Why rent? Own this sunny, top floor 1BR/1BA condo w/deck.  
Donna Conroy ..... 510-339-4700

### BY APPOINTMENT



**OAKMORE** ..... \$689,000  
3BR/2BA. Charming Traditional ready to move in to. Formal living & dining room, 2 FP, master suite, sunny back yard w/level area & hot tub.  
Donna Conroy ..... 510-339-4700

**MONTCLAIR** ..... \$675,000  
4BR/3BA. Tongue-in-groove beamed ceilings in living/dining rooms, 2 fireplaces, random plank & hardwood floors, 2-car garage.  
Nancy Dickey, CRS/Becky Andersen ..... 510-339-4700

### BY APPOINTMENT



**BERKELEY** ..... \$499,000 as is  
Spacious 3+BR/2.5BA. 1920s Craftsman on double lot in need of major restoration. Turn this faded gem into a masterpiece!  
Bonnie Ross ..... 510-339-4700

**OAKLAND** ..... \$315,000  
4BR/2BA. Large back yard, "fixer/as is."  
Don't miss it!  
Mahnaz Judson ..... 510-339-4700

**RICHMOND** ..... \$240,000  
Good starter home. 2BR/1BA. Newer paint in & out, updated bath, newer roof, 5K lot!  
Commute convenience.  
Josh Whitmer ..... 510-486-1495

### LOTS

**O EVERGREEN, CLAREMONT** ..... \$695,000  
Views facing SF Bay, large level area at bottom of lot.  
David Eckert ..... 510-339-4700

**13514 Campus Dr.** ..... \$395,000  
Design review approved plans. Engineering complete. Beautiful canyon views. Fairly level lot.  
David Eckert ..... 510-339-4700

**O Broadway, Rockridge** ..... \$299,000  
Over 21,000 sq. ft. w/tentative approval to be subdivided into 3 lots.  
Darcy Diamantine ..... 510-339-4700

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## WEEKLY SALES

### ALAMEDA

3273 Adams St - \$435,000  
2115 Alameda Av - \$665,000  
1916 Everett St - \$300,000  
1809 Lafayette St - \$340,000  
360 Magnolia Dr - \$405,000  
1118 Marianas Ln - \$379,500  
1612 Minturn St - \$401,000  
604 Pacific Av - \$350,000  
6 Redondo Ct #153 - \$281,000  
2780 Sea View Pky - \$435,000

### ALBANY

1037 Peralta Av - \$409,000  
555 Pierce St #100 - \$245,000  
545 Pierce St #310 - \$270,000  
1230 Portland Av - \$244,000  
514 Santa Fe Av - \$407,000

### BERKELEY

1619 Bancroft Wy - \$421,500  
2300 Browning St - \$395,000  
1505 Edith St - \$457,000  
1237 Haskell St - \$169,000  
2426 McGee Av - \$420,000  
822 Mendocino Av - \$1,750,000  
1618 Prince St - \$306,000  
1534 Russell St - \$275,000  
1715 Sacramento St - \$352,000  
942 Shattuck Av - \$570,000  
1429 Spruce St - \$710,000  
1864 Yosemite Rd - \$1,525,000

### EL CERRITO

5718 Barrett Av - \$606,000  
7400 Errol Dr - \$491,000  
6630 Gatto Av - \$465,000  
7302 Manila Av - \$417,000

7211 Plank Av - \$400,000  
1030 Richmond St - \$431,000  
7211 Stockton Av - \$462,000

### EL SOBRANTE

817 Bridgeway Cr - \$500,000  
830 Bridgeway Cr - \$412,000  
609 El Centro Rd - \$241,500  
592 Rincon Rd - \$235,000  
5523 S P Dam Rd - \$160,000

### EMERYVILLE

3 Captain Dr #D20 - \$215,000  
6363 Christie #250 - \$290,000  
6363 Christie #414 - \$225,000

### KENSINGTON

31 Rincon Dr - \$495,000

### OAKLAND

1729 104th Av - \$255,000  
2026 104th Av - \$315,000  
2957 107th Av - \$285,000  
877 21st St - \$222,000  
670 37th St - \$179,000  
2161 38th Av - \$188,000  
2580 38th Av - \$96,000  
2119 45th Av - \$230,000  
715 53rd St - \$281,500  
1070 54th St - \$264,000  
1465 72nd Av - \$80,000  
2723 74th Av - \$105,000  
2717 75th Av - \$160,000  
2701 77th Av - \$225,000  
1575 78th Av - \$180,000  
2014 80th Av - \$185,000  
3032 82nd Av - \$260,000  
1966 84th Av - \$70,000

9846 A St - \$267,000  
303 Adams St #205 - \$235,000  
936 Arlington Av - \$190,000  
867 Athens Av - \$200,000  
1008 Bayview Av - \$310,000  
220 Caldecott #108 - \$319,000  
621 Caldwell Rd - \$700,000  
13454 Campus Dr - \$1,020,000  
919 Center St - \$120,000  
3939 Carrizo Av - \$449,000  
75 Chadbourne Wy - \$610,000  
1941 Chestnut St - \$220,000  
331 Clifton St - \$450,000  
3435 Coolidge Av - \$295,000  
10539 Creekside Cr - \$242,500  
1902 East 30th St - \$240,000  
1322 East 33rd St - \$160,000  
3006 Eastman Av - \$255,000  
5495 El Camile Av - \$145,000  
3742 Enos Av - \$290,000  
6441 Essex St - \$246,000  
4731 Fair Av - \$301,000  
678 Fairview St - \$370,000  
3021 Filbert St - \$130,000  
9529 Golf Links Rd - \$265,000  
5980 Harbord Dr - \$760,000  
2023 High St - \$300,000  
9500 Holly St - \$170,000  
8121 Idlewood St - \$197,000  
456 Jones Av - \$185,000  
833 Kingston Av #B - \$256,000  
2614 La Cuesta Av - \$500,000  
4145 Lakeshore Av - \$634,000  
3263 Madeline St - \$325,000  
1132 Mandana Bl - \$649,000  
4119 Manila Av - \$400,000  
2537 Monticello Av - \$240,000  
5609 Moraga Av - \$635,000  
7816 Ney Av - \$245,000  
3455 Noyo St - \$539,000  
6725 Oakwood Dr - \$650,000  
11 Osborne Ct - \$500,000

3952 Patterson Av - \$380,000  
7014 Sayre Dr - \$505,000  
2242 Seminary Av - \$225,000  
6026 Skyline Bl - \$765,000  
51 Teralynn Ct - \$335,000  
5408 Thomas Av - \$530,000  
1007 Underhills Rd - \$400,000  
1420 Union St - \$278,500  
3524 Victor Av - \$480,000  
559 Walavista Av - \$690,000  
9234 Walnut St - \$276,000  
9921 Walnut St - \$232,000  
1219 West St - \$330,000  
5121 West St - \$399,000  
36 Windward Hill - \$635,000  
3300 Wisconsin St - \$399,000  
5419 Ygnacio Av - \$178,000

### PIEDMONT

132 Lextford Rd - \$990,000  
7 St. James Dr - \$811,000

### RICHMOND

36 29th St - \$195,000  
615 35th St - \$261,000  
463 44th St - \$286,000  
2607 Bayfront Ct - \$327,500  
200 Castro St - \$410,000  
329 Chanslor Av - \$178,500  
5120 Columbia Av - \$170,000  
206 Commodore Dr - \$247,000  
2443 Esmond Av - \$200,000  
3113 Groom Dr - \$270,000  
2548 Humphrey Av - \$281,000  
2886 Lincoln Av - \$250,000  
1532 Martin Dr - \$172,500  
2191 Pyramid Dr - \$300,000  
2703 Rheem Av - \$250,000  
745 Rock Rose Wy - \$423,000  
5389 Saddleback Ct - \$430,000  
5700 Skyview Pl - \$410,000  
525 South 22nd St - \$180,000  
5935 Tehama Av - \$220,000

1 Tisbury Ln - \$704,500  
1009 Trailside Dr - \$811,000  
1037 Trailside Dr - \$861,000  
869 Ventura St - \$255,000

### SAN LEANDRO

1584 166th Av - \$248,000  
219 Accolade Dr - \$369,000  
1261 Aileen St - \$332,000  
3765 Anza Wy - \$299,000  
1155 Avon Av - \$75,000  
2424 Belvedere Av - \$244,000  
345 Caliente Dr - \$218,000  
80 Castro St #132 - \$320,000  
15110 Crosby St - \$250,000  
979 Donovan Dr - \$250,000  
677 Elderberry Wy - \$26,000  
565 Estudillo Av - \$370,000  
2241 Gadowl Ct - \$370,000

See SALES Page B8

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presents



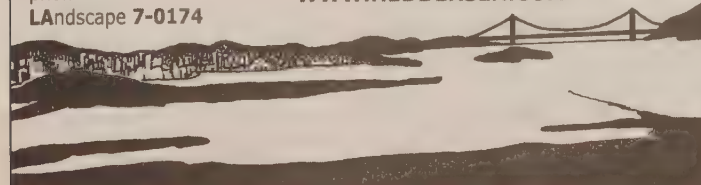
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**Open Sunday, February 10, 2-4:30pm**



**2895 Buena Vista Way, Berkeley**

Artfully positioned on a premier street in North Berkeley, this wonderful, spacious, contemporary home has high functionality and private spaces for all activities. A sense of living in the trees is coupled with sights of the expansive North Bay views. Warm wood tones accent light colored rooms and vaulted ceilings add drama and volume.


4+ bedrooms/3.5 baths • Exceptional North Bay views • Library/Media room  
2 family rooms • 2 master suites • In-law or 2nd unit potential  
• Decks • 2-car garage

**Donna Costella**  
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**★ Indicates Homes Being Held Open**

**OAKLAND/PIEDMONT**

★ Open Sun 12-3 \$995,000  
15735 Skyline. 3BR/3BA, 2800 sq. ft. peaceful estate w/uninterrupted views.  
Graham Carter (510) 845-0200

Attractive!! \$675,000  
Well-maintained 3BR, 1.5BA w/bkfst rm off kit. Lge sun/family rm. Bsmt, 2 car gar. Desirable St & area.  
Lisbeth Hibbard (510) 849-3711 (510) 464-4498

Hillier Highlands \$649,000  
The only one available! Elegant townhome offering style and convenience. Fabulous 3BR/2.5BA.  
Ivan & Michael (510) 597-1303 (510) 527-9800

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$589,000  
12710 Brookpark Rd. Lovely 4BR/2.5BA home w/gorgeous view from family room.  
Herb Manor (510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4:30 \$559,000  
3692 Calafia. Price Reduced! New construction w/3BR & 2.5BA + bonus room, hwd. flrs. and more!  
Sharon Ho (510) 339-9290

Great Family Home! \$459,000  
Nice 3+BR/2BA home has new carpet, frplc. and view. Non-conforming in-law and deck.  
Craig Shane (510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 1-4 \$275,000  
1430 Macarthur. Fresh, cute 3BR/1BA bungalow on sun drenched hillside above 580.  
Chris Neddersen (510) 527-0174 (510) 845-0200

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$199,999  
295 Lenox Ave. #105, Oakland. Beautiful condo. 1BR/1BA w/fireplace & downtown views. Don't miss it!  
Nancy Blom (510) 464-1184

Charming Bungalow \$199,000  
Light-filled 2BR home on a wonderful street. 2-Car garage, landscaped backyard. Starter.  
Heather Sandford (510) 845-0211

**CASTRO VALLEY**

Make An Offer! \$550,000  
Great 2-story 6BR/3BA home w/big mstr. suite. Super motivated seller!  
Craig Shane (510) 339-9290

**BERKELEY/ALBANY**

Walk To UCI! \$599,950  
Northside mediterr. bungalow. 2+BR, remod. kitchen, non-cfm. in-law unit below.  
Terrence Jue (510) 524-2526

Berkeley Loft - L/W \$539,000  
3 Level 1+BR/2.5BA - Garden, Deck, Light Galore! Very Special!  
Nancy Platford (510) 845-0211

**BERKELEY/ALBANY**

★ Open Sun 2-5 \$439,000  
1 Maggiora Drive. 3BR+ /2.5BA. View. Oakland Hills.  
Lois Harris (510) 834-2010

Big 1/4 Acre Lot \$425,000  
3351 Monterey Blvd. 2BR w/legal 2nd unit. Trees, views.  
Richard Matus (510) 834-2010

**ALAMEDA**  
510-337-8670

**ALBANY**  
510-524-2526

**BERKELEY**  
510-845-0200

**BERKELEY/NORTH**  
510-849-3711

**EL CERRITO**  
510-527-9800

**GRAND LAKE**  
510-834-2010

**KENSINGTON**  
510-526-5143

**MONTCLAIR**  
510-339-9290

**BERKELEY/ALBANY**

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$330,000  
Smart Starter! 920 Bldg Berkeley. 2BR/1BA cosmetics needed, yard.  
Rayne Paine (510) 339-9290

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

Contemporary Bay View \$429,000  
4BR, 3BA, nice hwd. Great view from living rm and wraparound deck. Call for entertaining.  
(510) 845-0200

★ Open Sun 1-4 \$519,000  
907/914 Estrella Ct Concord. New construction. Only 3 remain - 3+BR/2+BA homes.  
Sandy (510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun 2-4 \$379,000  
Move-In Condition 7815 Potrero, El Cerrito. Quaint 3BR/2BA w/private garden. Pest clear!  
Terrence (510) 524-2526

Lovely Country Home \$519,000  
This updated 3+BR home located on the edge Wildcat Canyon Park minutes to freeway w/ fireplace in living rm, updated tile kitchen, 2 BAs, hardwood floors, new carpet. The home offers a plus room and garden.  
Carol Heath (510) 524-2526

**PLEASANTON**

Spacious And Bright \$189,000  
2BR, 2BA w/family room, carpet, clubhouse and jacuzzi.  
Muriel Wadsworth or Jay (510) 845-0211

**LOTS FOR SALE**

2630 Adeline St. Versatile level lot.  
Joan (510) 845-0211

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Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B12

## Montclair



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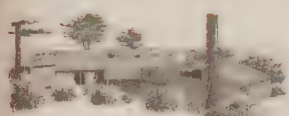
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### Open Sunday 2/10



**SEEN IS BELIEVING** \$880,000  
Beautiful Montclair retreat. 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath with huge garage. Fabulous views from all angles, remodeled throughout. Located on large lot at Redwood Regional Park. 6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Laurel Strand 510-339-8400



**SPRAWLING CONTEMPORARY** \$599,000  
In a great neighborhood. 4+ Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath. Indoor barbecue, 2 fireplaces, master suite, 2 family rooms & a gorgeous living room. 882 South Baywood, San Jose  
Gary Robinson 510-339-4000



**LOCATION PLUS CHARM** \$478,000  
Old world beauty. Spacious 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Deep yard. Walk to lake, transportation. Must see to appreciate! 335 Hanover  
Teresa Chan 510-339-4000

### By Appointment

**RARE FIND IN DANVILLE** \$704,950  
Ideal for family looking for extra room for in-law, au-pair, teenager, or rental income. Huge 5 bedroom, 2.5 bath with dual pane windows, new carpet, paint, newer roof, plus 1 bath single level with full kitchen and separate entrance. End of court location with large private backyard. Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



**COMING SOON IN ROCKRIDGE** \$645,000  
Sweetheart of a home you'll love! Two story Traditional with three bedrooms, two baths, family room, remodeled kitchen, grassy garden, walk to BART & shops. Available February 14th!

Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

**BEAUTIFUL CROW CANYON HOME** \$588,000  
3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Immaculate condition with upgrades. Crown molding, French doors, custom gourmet cabinets and garden window in kitchen. Located on the 14th fairway with spa.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



**ADAMS POINT 4-PLEX** \$575,000  
Lots of charm, upside potential, good unit mix with additional home office, plenty of parking. Walk to bus, schools and Grand Lake area shops and restaurants. Arnold Mueller 510-339-4000

### By Appointment



**ROCKRIDGE CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW** \$565,000  
1/2 block to BART, College Avenue shops, library, three bedrooms, 2 baths, living and dining rooms with built-in cabinetry and inlaid hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths. Caroline Peters 510-339-8400



**GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD** \$459,000  
This one story ranch style home is close to schools, walking paths. Large pool in backyard. Pergo floors, wood blinds, ceiling fans. Plenty of room for entertaining in this 4 bedroom, 2 full bath home. Take a look and you'll love it! Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

**MUST SEE INTERIOR! DANVILLE!** \$369,950  
Sunny and bright, 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome end-unit. Walking distance to shops. Granite/marble/hardwood. Inside laundry, marble fireplace, 2-car garage. Trees plus open space. Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

### Lots and Land

**LEVEL LOT-CLOSE TO EVERYTHING!** \$99,500  
2 contiguous lots within Oakland, located about 200 feet out of the city of Piedmont. Homes in this area sell a million to 2 million. Bay View too!

www.PatriciaBennett.com 510-339-8400

### Income Property



**NEW LISTING!!! 30 UNITS** \$3,300,000  
Great building! Great income! Great potential! Clean, E-Z care. Call for info. Approx. \$348K Gr  
Hal Marcus 510-339-4000



**WHAT A DEAL!** \$599,000  
Beautiful, well-maintained, separate metered 8-plex. Cable, ceiling fans, off street parking. Security building, close to freeways, shops, and transportation. Offers heard Feb. 18  
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

**STRONG RENTAL LOCATION!** \$499,000  
Walking distance to Piedmont Ave., this 4-plex is a great opportunity for investors. Each unit is very large with separate dining rooms.

Mark Attarha 510-339-8400

### Rental

**NICE AND CLEAN!** \$2500/MO.  
3 Br, 1 1/2 Ba. in Rockridge. Traditional home close to Hillcrest school. New appliances, fenced yard. Available now. \$2500 Mo. plus deposit. Call for appointment.  
Martha Shin 510-339-8400

# WELLS & BENNETT

531-7000  
REALTORS

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

BY APPOINTMENT



**389 BELMONT AVENUE #405** \$287,000  
New listing! 2BD/1.5BA top floor unit with views, newer appliances, new flooring, fireplace in living room, washer & dryer in unit, bldg. has been retrofitted.  
Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238



**3416-18 SUTER STREET** \$275,000  
Just listed! Vacant, 1920 duplex fixer. Very large units. Each is 2+BD w/fireplace, hardwood floors and laundry room. Great outdoor living. Fantastic opportunity for contractor or handy buyer. Sold "As-Is."  
Don Dunning 485-7239 or 531-7000 x239

**NEW LISTING IN DESIRABLE LOWER TEMESCAL DISTRICT** \$292,000  
Triplex. Victorian style. Two 1BD units, 1 detached 1BD unit. Newer roof and paint. Consider this building a fixer-upper with a pest control report of \$75,000. Being sold "As-Is." Shown Sunday & Wed w/appt. Offers viewed 2/14.  
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**TALK ABOUT LOCATION! - SOMMERSET RD. OAKLAND** \$245k-\$285k  
2 contiguous lots within Oakland, located about 200 feet out of the city of Piedmont. Homes in this area sell a million to 2 million. Bay View too!  
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

**320 LEE STREET #806** \$269,000  
1/1 Stunning views of Lake Merritt & Oakland City lights. Unit has updated kitchen & bath with imported tile floor in both kitchen & bath. Parquet floors in living room, dining room area. Immaculate condo.  
Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238

**3244 MILLSVIEW** \$269,000  
Spacious Maxwell Pk 2BD/2BA needs TLC w/ potential! 2 large bonus rooms on lower level - could be used for bdrm, office; or art/music studio, dining rm. w/blt-ins, level yard with deck.  
Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228 or 436-4100

**85 VERNON STREET #313** \$194,870  
1/1 Great unit, completely updated kitchen, track lighting, beautifully decorated, very light unit, nice building, lovely tile balcony.  
Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238

**MONTCLAIR-OAKLAND HILLS** \$115k-\$120k  
3 contiguous lots. Buy 1, 2, or all. Upslopes, utilities at front of lots. Design review approved building plans. Soil report avail. Financing avail. Area of high-end new homes.  
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

### TAHOE LISTINGS

**RADIANT "OLD TAHOE" JEWEL** \$1,795,000  
Impeccably renovated & rebuilt to take you back in time, resplendent in Martha Stewart type designs, circa 1930's, this matchless home is being sold mostly furnished; ready to turn the key. Spectacular panoramic lake views from most rooms, massive stone fireplace. Deep 1/2 acre lot.  
Jim Plumbridge 800-858-2463

**TAHOE TAVERN** \$675,000  
Delightful garden unit with private fenced, landscaped yard. Popular floor plan offers 3 spacious BD, 2BA, and a stone fireplace. This well managed complex is ideally located near town, ski resorts, restaurants & shopping.  
Pat Lucas 800-858-8463

**CRISP AND FRESH** \$595,000  
Newly refurbished mountain home with beautiful taste and quality. River rock fireplace exudes the warm, friendly atmosphere of the living room with new open kitchen & dining. 3BD plus sleeping loft, 2.5BA, big fenced yard makes this an ideal vacation or family home.  
Jim Plumbridge 800-858-2463

**UNIQUE MOUNTAIN HOME** \$424,000  
A unique design makes this home special. Relax in front of the fireplace w/cozy built-in seating, 4BD/2BA, loft, & large deck. Nestled in the pine trees on a cul-de-sac street of wonderful Agate Bay.  
Karen Crane 800-963-2216

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND  
531-7000

• LAKE TAHOE 1-800-858-2463 Vacation Rentals/Sales  
• WILSON CREEK (925) 938-8484 www.wellsandbennett.com



## Sales

FROM PAGE B5

899 Graff Av - \$515,000  
260 Joaquin Av - \$370,000  
1508 Kelly Av - \$285,000  
466 Lewis Av - \$302,000  
2190 Liberty Wy - \$528,000  
2145 Marina Bl - \$450,000  
701 Matosa Ln - \$441,000  
14469 Merced St - \$319,000  
14517 Merced St - \$202,500  
3441 Monogram St - \$385,000  
15473 Montreal St - \$360,000  
2265 Oceanside Wy - \$452,500  
2271 Prosperity Wy - \$383,000  
1306 Scenicview Dr - \$575,000  
14406 Seagate Dr - \$288,000  
16815 Selby Dr - \$423,000  
536 Sterling Dr - \$230,000  
2077 Washington #306 - \$170,000  
439 West Merle Ct - \$252,000  
1942 Wheelan Av - \$325,000  
14753 Wyman Av - \$350,000

### SAN LORENZO

975 Bockman Rd - \$295,000  
15861 Hesperian Bl - \$285,000  
16047 Silverleaf Dr - \$420,000  
471 Via Linares - \$412,000  
15763 Via Lunado - \$305,000  
16008 Via Media - \$258,000  
16167 Via Owen - \$345,000  
16024 Via Paro - \$125,000

### By the numbers

#### ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 10  
LOWEST PRICE: \$281,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$665,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$399,150

#### BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST PRICE: \$244,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$409,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$270,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$315,000

#### BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 12  
LOWEST PRICE: \$169,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,750,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$612,542

#### EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7  
LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$606,000

MEDIAN PRICE: \$462,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$467,429

### EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST PRICE: \$160,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$500,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$241,500  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$309,700

### EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3  
LOWEST PRICE: \$215,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$290,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$225,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$243,333

### KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1  
PRICE: \$495,000

### OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 77  
LOWEST PRICE: \$70,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,020,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$225,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$338,084

### PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2  
LOWEST PRICE: \$811,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$990,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$900,500

### MICHIGANO

TOTAL SALES: 24  
LOWEST PRICE: \$170,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$704,500  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$316,563

### SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34  
LOWEST PRICE: \$75,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$575,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$331,353

### SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 8  
LOWEST PRICE: \$125,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$420,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$305,625

This list is provided by California Resource (510-568-7233) a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com.

## Reid

FROM PAGE B5

### WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to join the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. The group was appointed years ago by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

### ARPB BREAKFAST

The Associated Real Property Brokers (ARPB) holds a networking breakfast on the third Wednesday of every month. This month's breakfast is from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Feb. 20. The Oak Tree Grille on Embarcadero in Oakland is the location. Real estate agents are encouraged to bring flyers and market their properties. The meeting is open forum. For more information call Tyrone Casey of Fidelity National Title at 510-893-8100.

### BAR LUNCHEON

Attend the Berkeley Association of Realtors monthly networking luncheon. The next luncheon begins at 12:15 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20. The luncheon is held at the BAR Auditorium. Reservations are a must. Contact Don Clark at the BAR office for information and reservations at 510-848-4288.

OPEN M-F 6 - 9pm  
Sat & Sun 12 - 5pm



NEW LISTING! 971 WILLIAM DRIVE  
SAN LORENZO - \$435,000  
- FOR SALE BY OWNER -

This spacious 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home is only 2 years old. The large master bedroom features a separate shower with deep jetted, spa-like tub. Customized window coverings are placed throughout. Other features include a fireplace, double kitchen sink, electric range, 2 car garage with auto door opener, upstairs laundry room, low maintenance front and back yard w/ auto sprinklers and water fountain. This is what you have been looking for! Paying 2.5% at close of escrow to any agent who brings the buyer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
STEVEN RAY  
510-317-6537

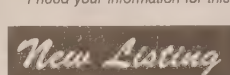
### WHO'S ON FIRST?

Who's new with Quaker City Bank? Vice President Fred Hollister is now their Northern California representative for multi-family and commercial real estate loans. Hollister has an Alameda office. Call him at 510-207-8333.

Just received an "atta girl" email from Nate Brooks of RE/Max East Bay Hills. Did you know Nate has an MBA from Harvard? If you want to say "hey", Brooks can be reached at 510-562-7200.

### WHAT'S UP DOC??

I need your information for this



3216 Monte Vista Avenue  
OPEN Sat. & Sun. 2-4

### CLASSIC ALAMEDA EAST END CHARMER

2 bdms., 1.5 baths with all the right upgrades. Arts & Crafts Detailing Throughout. Gorgeous Big Picture Windows Bring the Sunshine in. Beautiful Hardwood Floors, Large Living Room with Built-ins and Brick Fireplace. Dining Room with Lique Style Light Fixture, Modern Kitchen with Lots of Cabinets, Greenhouse Window, Breakfast Nook, Converted 3rd bdrm. into Entertainment Room with French Doors leads to Deck, Hot Tub, Gazebo Garden, 2 Car Garage.

Offered at \$515,000



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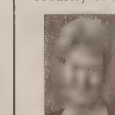
510-748-1139  
Email: realestatepg@aol.com

SPECIALISTS IN FINE EAST BAY PROPERTIES



Open Sunday:  
300 Caldecott Lane #313, Oakland  
Wonderful light-filled top floor 2 bedroom, 2 bath "Piedmont" model with cathedral ceilings. Two separate master bedroom suites, open gourmet kitchen, 2 parking spaces + lots more. Offered at \$345,000

Coming Soon:  
Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath w/real hwd. floors & custom upgrades. Excellent amenities-pool, sauna, hot tub, gym, security & express bus to S.F. Offered at \$335,000



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Past clients say:  
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"Thank you for all your help..."  
"From the moment of my first phone call, she met and exceeded all my expectations"



Edith Marcus  
Voice Mail: (510) 287-5886  
E-mail: emarc01@earthlink.net

MONTCLAIR  
BETTER HOMES REALTY  
(510) 339-8400

column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is two weeks before the event.

There are three convenient ways to reach me.  
Send an email to bobbiereid@dotplanet.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

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### Coming on the Market February 14th

3444 Dwight Way, Berkeley  
\$639,000

Open Sunday, February 17th, 2-4:30

Fall in love with this sophisticated, architect-designed jewel with stunning panoramic views. Completely remodeled in 1999, this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath includes a master suite with spa bath, 2 fireplaces and custom kitchen opening to an expansive Great Room for elegant entertaining. Discover the good life of luxury and privacy.

Preview online @www.marvingardens.com

For more information call:  
Luanne Warner  
510-527-2700x29  
Marvin Gardens Real Estate

### CASTLE ROCK REALTY

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
OF  
HOMES & APARTMENTS

528-9292

DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKERS

### FABULOUS CLAREMONT HILLS CONTEMPORARY

Open Sunday • February 10 • 2-4:30

6937 Bristol Drive, Oakland

An artistic & dramatic 3 level home with great separation of space. Sun-filled with canyon views, in a neighborhood of million dollar homes. 3BR/2+1BA. Close to Tilden Park, BART, Rockridge & Montclair.

Offered at \$529,000

For more information please call  
WENDY SPRAGUE  
Senior Sales Consultant  
at 339-6460 ext. 340

PACIFIC UNION

### Tucked Away In Rockridge

332 Modoc Ave. Oakland  
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

Wonderful 2 bedroom family home tucked away from street in desirable Rockridge area. Enjoy the Bay view kitchen has been nicely remodeled. Hardwood floors, cozy fireplace add to the charm. Property features a spacious home office with separate entrance and level back yard for gardening & play! Enjoy the area's many interesting shops, restaurants and convenience to Bart for those forays into San Francisco. A true gem!

Offered at \$579,000

Logene Butler, Realtor  
Prudential  
(510) 701-4344 Direct • (510) 524-2526 Office

"Throughout, Madalyn combined the best aspects of personal and professional service, whether it was pitching in to prepare for sale or demystifying the contract language. We cannot imagine a more positive experience with a realtor."

— M. Recknor  
— C. Glanzer

Call or e-mail me today so I can help you buy or sell the home you love.

Prudential  
California Realty

Madalyn Mitchell  
REALTOR

510-986-9517  
Madalyn.Mitchell@Prudweb.com

### HARBOR BAY REALTY

SALES • RENTALS • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

510-523-1144

885 Island Drive, Alameda

www.hbrhomes.com

#### Oakland

\$180,000 834 Peralta St. Contractors special 4bd, 1ba, formal dining room, laundry room and unfinished basement. Across from elementary school and near BART. Can be very charming home. Nina 510-814-4836.

\$198,000 3W Embarcadero 227. Quint super private unit on second floor with carport parking. One bedroom with double doors. Walk to Jack London waterfront. Next to channel "2". Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$195,000 1317 Center St. Large Victorian Contractors special 4bd, 1ba, formal dining room, laundry room, unfinished basement, 2 car garage. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$225,000 930 Pine St. Perfect for live/work. Approx. 1400 sq. ft. 14' ceiling, skylites, & roll up door. Needs work! Good location. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$358,000 8048 Greenly Dr. Single level 2bd, 1ba bungalow! Large eat in kitchen and family room. Large deck and in-ground pool in private yard. Donnaluci 510-814-4826

#### San Leandro

\$69,000 62 Santa Margarita. OPEN SUN. 2-4. Spacious double-wide mobile home in great location! 2bd, 2ba, den/family room, laundry room, and lots of closet space. Two car carport and storage shed. Senior Citizen Park, 55+ required. Chuck 510-814-4847

\$335,000 14578 Outrigger Dr. Condo in Seagate Community with 2 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, 2 car garage, pool, tennis courts and spa. Call me for more info. Tere 510-814-4840

\$249,000 1400 Carpenter St. #116, 2bd, 2ba condo convenient to BART, bus, and shopping. Lovely garden in courtyard with pool, spa, & clubhouse. Elevators, 1 garage space. Tere 510-814-4840

#### Hayward

\$299,900 20 Trestle Dr. French country charm-large 3bd, 2ba end unit! Remodeled kitchen, 1bd and bath on main level. Two fireplaces - dining room and master suite. Attached garage. Margaret 510-814-4829

#### El Cerrito

\$595,000 5490 Barrett Avenue. Colonial 4+ bedroom, 2.5 bath home with master bedroom with dressing room, fireplace, study with built-in desk or den upstairs, 2 car garage, 2 car garage and large yard with gazebo & fruit trees. Close to transportation. Denise 510-814-4871



## space



# Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracostatimes.com

## ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1330 Bay St Open Sunday, Main Island Harvey Fry 510-821-5475, Kame & Associates	380	2-4	\$895,000
1251 Sherman Open Sunday Doris Brady 510-523-8899; Janelle Spitz 510-521-4045 Bayside Real Estate	304	2-4	\$815,000
1251 St. Charles Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Alice Garvin 510-748-1110	404/1.5ba	2-4	\$795,000
122 Purcell Dr. Open Sunday; ON LAGOON Estate Millin 510-814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$875,000
43 Captains Open Sunday Steve Sorenson 510-814-4888 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$848,000
9 Hercules Court Open Sunday Pacific Union Real Estate, Ivan Leung (415) 910-1771	3 + 1/2, 2.5BA	2-4	\$548,000
3216 Monte Vista Ave Open Sat & Sun Callaghan & Lindsey, Patricia Gorrilla 510-748-1130	304/1.5ba	2-4	\$515,000
12 Brit Court Open Sunday Doris Vival 510-814-4821 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$489,000
1905 Sandcreek Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Evelyn Kennedy 510-748-1120	304/2ba	2-4	\$475,000
320 Fairhaven Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Debra Gorman 510-748-1127	480/2ba	2-4	\$469,950
3110 Adams Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Darlene Gardner 510-748-1104	304/1ba	2-4	\$469,000
1219 Porto Ballena Open Sunday Mark Wynn 510-522-5827, BaySide Real Estate	290	2-4	\$449,000
2016 Sandcreek Open Sunday Sister McWilliams 510-814-4825 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2BA	2-4	\$435,000
1124 Court St Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Ruth Macneil 510-748-1101	290/1ba	2-4	\$429,000
3215 Monte Vista Ave Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Signe Nelson 510-748-1103	304/1ba	2-4	\$389,500
401 Inwood Open Sunday Judy Jacobs 510-814-4771 Harbor Bay Realty	290/2.5BA	2-4	\$385,000
3006 Cerro Vista Open Sunday Mark Pineda 510-814-4874 Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$369,500
1414 Hoover Court Open Sunday Prudential, Allison Austin 510-337-8670	280/1BA	2-4	\$355,000
2108 N. Otis Dr Open Sunday Nina Qian 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$309,000
421 Santa Clara Av Open Sunday, Main Island Jerry Humbston, Kame & Associates 510-522-0968	180	2-4	\$300,000
339 Broadway #217 Open Sunday George Muir 510-814-4891 Harbor Bay Realty	280/2BA	2-4	\$267,500
1333 Webster St. Open Sunday, Park Webster Continental, Nick Caporal 510-383-1972	180/1BA	1-4	\$195,000

## ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
947 Hillside RED OAK, 510-290-2116, Feri	290/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$375,000

## BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1920 Yosemite Rd Pacific Union	5 + 80/4BA Sun	2-4:30	\$1,200,000
1020 Keeler Ave The Grubb Co.	5 + 14.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$1,250,000
542 Santa Barbara Rd The Grubb Co.	5 + 2 + 1/2 Sun	2-4:30	\$825,000
40 Acacia Ave North Berkeley Pacific Union	480/3.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$845,000
2895 Buena Vista Way North Berkeley Pacific Union	4 + 80/3BA Sun	2-4:30	\$845,000
2424 Russell St The Grubb Co.	480/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$770,000
1724 Marin Ave The Grubb Co.	4 + 80/3BA Sun	2-4:30	\$649,000
1729 8th St Pacific Union	280/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$585,000
2430 B 5th St Honey Portland, Prudential, 510-845-0211	304/2.5	Sun 2-4	\$538,000
80 Whittaker RED OAK, 510-280-2192, Sanyo	290/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$480,000
1635 Scenic #4 RED OAK, 510-280-2175, Schuyler	290/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$389,000
1233 Dwight Way Agent, (510) 662-8487	304/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$395,000
1912 Sacramento Hill & Tracy, Berkeley Hill Realty, 510-524-9888	190/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$395,000
300 Caldecott Ln Dorine Millman, Berkeley Hill Realty, 510-524-9888	290/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$345,000
920 Batan Rayne Palmer, Prudential, 510-829-6143	290/1ba	Sun 2-4	\$325,000

## EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1150 James Pl Gene Millette, Eugene Millette & Assoc., 510-527-8822	4 + 2 + 1/2 Sun	1-4	\$1,100,000
6763 Terrace Dr RED OAK, 510-280-2113, Pamela	304/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$550,000
6426 Hagan Blvd Geri Stern, Security Pacific, 510-862-8468	404/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$389,950
5909 Charles RED OAK, 510-280-2125, Kathy	304/1.5ba	2-4:30	\$385,000
7815 Potrero Terrence Jus, Prudential, 510-824-2528	304/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$379,000
1708 Lexington #10 RED OAK, 510-280-2146, Tim	21 condo	Sun 2-4	\$229,500

## EL SOBRANTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
50 La Palma Ct Gary Toribio, Security Pacific, 510-738-5550	404/2.5	Sun 1-5	\$450,000
4500 Fieldcrest Mark Bruzzone, 415-987-6432	290/1ba	Sun 1-4	\$279,950

## KENSINGTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
15 Franciscan Wy Luisa Castillo, Prudential, 510-845-0211	404/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$525,000

## LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3696 Happy Valley Rd. Open Sunday Colwell Banker, Judyann Robinson 925-253-4601	504/5ba	1-4	\$2,650,000



Advertise in the Open Home Guide!  
The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice,  
The Journal & The Alameda Journal  
Call 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679

## MORAGA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1977 Ascot Dr., #6 OPEN SUNDAY Colwell Banker, Elena Stone (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA	1-4	\$430,500

## OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5926 Margarita Dr Upper Rockledge Pacific Union	580/4.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$2,200,000
614 Alvarado Rd Claremont Pacific Union	480/3BA	Sun 2-4	\$1,575,000
7065 Marlborough Claremont Hills Pacific Union Patricia Scott Winslow (510) 339-6460	4 + 80/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$1,500,000
6150 Mazuela Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY Colwell Banker, Nancy Day (510) 339-4700	580/2.5BA	2-4:30	\$1,150,000
6155 Girvin Dr. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY Christian Dwyer, 510-339-8900	504/3.5ba	2-4:30	\$1,095,000
6919 Bristol Dr Oakland Hills Pacific Union	580/4BA Sun	2-4:30	\$1,080,000
1260 Grand View Dr Claremont Hills Pacific Union Nancy Neman (510) 339-6460	4 + 70BA Sun	2-4:30	\$1,040,000
32 News Court Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY Colwell Banker, Darcy Diamond (510) 339-4700	480/2.5BA	2-5	\$980,000
6153 Girvin Drive Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY D.C. Hodges, 510-531-7657, C21 Heritage R.E.	404/3.5ba	2-4:30	\$995,000
6703 Everton Dr, Oakland Hills Michelle Shuman, Agent 925-250-8880	4 bds 3 ba	Sun 1-4	\$980,000
927 Sunnyside Rd Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co. K. Harmon/V. Brubis (510) 339-6400	380/3BA Sun	2-4:30	\$938,000
1634 Laimert Blvd Oakland The Grubb Co. John Karmay (510) 339-6400	480/3.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$909,000
1785 Northwood Ct Montclair Pacific Union	580/4BA Sun	2-4:30	\$899,000

## OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
108 Sheridan Rd Upper Rockledge Pacific Union	580/3.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$895,000
6000 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Montclair, OPEN SUNDAY Better Homes, Laurel Strand 510-339-9400	304/2ba	2-5	\$890,000
5508 Proctor Ave Upper Rockledge The Grubb Co.	3 + 2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$789,000
6100 Estates Colwell Banker, Michael Thompson (510) 339-4700	380/2.5BA	Sun 2-5	\$716,000
6156 Ocean View Dr Upper Rockledge Pacific Union	380/2.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$649,000
6261 Skyline Cir Oakland Hills The Grubb Co.	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$625,000
800 Creed Road Crocker Highlands Colwell Banker, Linda Van Drent 510-813-7086	380/2.5BA Sun	2-4:30	\$625,000
12710 Brookpark Rd Herb Manor, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8230	404/2.5ba	2-4:30	\$589,000
332 Modoc Lugene Butler, Prudential, 510-824-2528	2 + 1/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$578,000
5364 Hilltop Crescent Sharon Ho, Prudential-Montclair, 510-339-8230	280/1BA	Sun 1-4	\$575,000
3862 Cafina Honey Portland, Prudential, 510-845-0211	380/2	BA Sun 2-4:30	\$529,000
6937 Bristol Dr Claremont Hills Pacific Union	380/2	BA Sun 2-4:30	\$529,000
6115 Saddle Brook Dr Honey Portland, Prudential, 510-845-0211	304/2.5	Sun 2-5	\$525,000
2644 Lucasta Ave Montclair The Grubb Co. John Karmay (510) 339-6400	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$499,000
588 Rosal Ave Lakewood The Grubb Co. Bettina Balenier (510) 339-6400	380/1BA Sun	2-4:30	\$499,000
3920 Norton Ave Laurel Pacific Union	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$469,000

## OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8238 Lockley Ave The Grubb Co.	280/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$479,000
335 Hancock Lake Merritt, OPEN SUNDAY Better Homes Teresa Chan (510) 339-4000	380/2BA	2-4:30	\$478,000
543 12nd St. Lower Temescal, Open Sun. Dori Joy, 510-339-8900	4 + 10/2ba	2-4:30	\$475,000
560 Valle Vista Adrienne Reath, Prudential, 510-845-0211	3 + 2.5	Sun 2-5	\$448,000
1 Maggiori Dr Lois Harris, Prudential, 510-834-2010/297-2521	3 + 2.5	Sun 2-5	\$438,000
424 60th St RED OAK, 510-280-2135, Diana	304/1ba Sun	2-4:30	\$429,000
2923 Nicol Ave Open Sunday Prudential, Joe Chau 510-337-8670	480/2BA	2-4	\$424,000
3745 Columbian Dr Oakland Pacific Union	3 + 80/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$398,000
7820 Starling Dr. Open SUNDAY Jan Forney, 510-339-8900, C21 Heritage R.E.	280/2ba	2-4:30	\$385,000
4025 Mars Lugene Butler, Prudential, 510-824-2528	304/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$360,000
2828 Filbert St #7 RED OAK, 510-280-2194, Kathy	1/1 bdr	Sun 2-4	\$345,000
240 Caldecott Ln #208 Parkwood Pacific Union	280/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$338,000
7932 Hillmont Dr Open Sunday Janet Kaplan, Prudential, 510-845-0200	304/1ba Sun	2-4:30	\$337,000
4255 Suter St Open Sunday Callaghan & Lindsey, Moon Tam 510-748-1620	2 + 80/1ba	1-4:30	\$299,950
5223 Belvedere Lower Mission Park Colwell Banker	380/1BA	Sun 2-5	\$299,000
3824 Loma Vista Laurel, Open Sunday Pacific Union / Sonoma, Thomas Wurst (877) 877-2142	4 + 180/1BA	2-4:30	\$289,000
3115 Herriott Ave. Maxwell Park Charming Olivia Stockman, RE/MAX C.C. Connections 925-806-1855	280	Sun 2-4:30	\$289,000
389 Belmont Ave # 405 Wells & Bennett Realtors Patsy Butler 510-531-7000/2238	280/1.5BA	2-4:30	\$287,000
2458 64th Oakland Anthony Associates	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$279,000
2115 8th Ave Jenny Ma, Prudential, 510-854-2070	2 + 1/5	Sun 2-4	\$275,000
3416-18 Suter St Wells & Bennett Realtors Don Dunning 510-531-7000/2238	2 + 80	2-4:30	\$275,000
295 Lenox Ave #105 Prudential, Nancy Bloom 510-337-8670	180/1BA	2-4	\$199,999
295 Lenox Ave #105 Open Sunday Prudential, Nancy Bloom 510-464-1184	180/1BA	2-4	\$199,999
730 29th St C-2 RED OAK, 510-280-2105, Sara	1/1 bdr	Sun 2-4	\$186,000
2317 65th Ave Heather Sanford, Prudential, 510-845-0211	290/1ba	Sun 2-5	\$189,000
10 Moss Ave, #22 Rose Garden/Open Sunday Colwell Banker	180/1BA	1:30-4:30	\$149,000
2333 & 2335 7th St Oakland Pacific Union	180/1BA	380/1BA	Sun 2-4:30

## PIEDMONT

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
604 Blair Ave The Grubb Co.	480/3BA Sun	2-4:30	\$449,000
102-104 Pacific Ave Pacific Union	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$449,000
30 Estrella Ave Pacific Union	380/2BA Sun	2-4:30	\$449,000
240 Wildwood Ave The Grubb Co.	1 + 80/1 + 1/2	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## PLEASANTON

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3263 Vineyard #131 Marlet Watkins, Susan & Jay Collins 510-834-2010	280/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## POINT RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
630 Ocean View Nancy Fox, Thermal Properties, 510-834-2010	304/2	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4591 Fran Wy Carla Della Zoppa, Security Pacific, 510-845-0211	304/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## SAN LEANDRO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
77-87 Dutton Ave. Open Sun. Sue Williams, 510-409-6736, Century 21	180/1BA	2-4	\$449,000
526 McKinley Ct RED OAK, 510-280-2195, Julie	280/2ba	Sun 2-4:30	\$449,000
13651 Seagate Dr Open Sunday Tom Young 510-814-4841 Harbor Bay Realty	280/2BA	2-4	\$449,000
261 Julius RED OAK, 510-280-2195, Julie	280/2ba	Sun 2-4:30	\$449,000
14413 Seagate Dr Open Sunday Tara Lee 510-814-4840 Harbor Bay Realty	280/1BA	2-4	\$449,000
62 Santa Margarita Open Sunday Chuck Bamez 510-814-4841 Harbor Bay Realty	280/2BA	2-4	\$449,000

## SAN PABLO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5229 North Arlington Blvd Cynthia Burke, Security Pacific, 510-464-1184	280/2ba	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## VALLEJO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
131 Sunrise Wy Daisy Tan, Prudential, 510-845-0211	404/3	Sun 1-4	\$449,000

## WALNUT CREEK

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
370 North Civic Drive, #211 Open Sunday Franko M. Iman 925-814-1922 Century 21	280/2BA	Sun 2-4	\$449,000

## SANTA CLARA CO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
882 South Baywood SAN JOSE Better Homes Gary Robinson 510-339-4000	4 + 80/2BA	Sun 1-4	\$449,000

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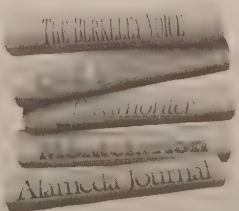
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**NEW LISTING W/SPECTACULAR BAY VIEWS/IN-LAW POTENTIAL**  
6426 Hagen Blvd. (Open Sun 2-4) 4BR 2BA home w/ gorgeous Heart Redwood paneling in living room, 2 fireplaces, 2nd kitchen downstairs, lovely backyard, just up the hill Del Norte BART, 1 car attached garage w/interior access, dual pane windows! Don't miss it #2003089! For all information on this property call 800-818-4005 ask for tour #123 www.geristern.com 510-662-8469.

**NEAR DEL NORTE BART**  
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5929 N. Arlington (Open Sun 1-4) 3BR 2BA approx. 1100 sq.ft., enjoy country living, close to Wildcat Canyon Park. Lovely in-law too! www.cynthiaburke.com.

**RICHMOND/EL SOBRANTE**

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## —Homes Open Sunday, Feb 10th—



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REALTY

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[redoakrealty.com](http://redoakrealty.com)

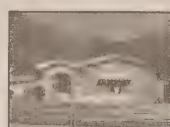
Your  
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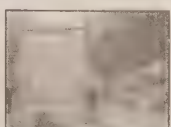
**New Listing!**  
730-29th St. C-2, Oakland  
\$199,000 Open 2-4



**New Listing!**  
424-60th St., Rockridge  
\$429,000 Open 2-4:30



**New Listing!**  
261 Julius, San Leandro  
\$289,000 Open 2:30-4:30



**New Listing!**  
947 Hillside, Albany  
\$375,000 Open 2-4



**New Listing!**  
80 Whitaker, Berkeley  
\$469,000 Open 2-4



**New Listing!**  
8763 Terrace, El Cerrito  
\$550,000 Open 2-4:30

### —More Homes Open Sunday, Feb10th—

526 McKinley, San Leandro 2/1 ... \$319,000 2-4:30 pm  
1708 Lexington, El Cerrito 2/1 .... \$229,500 2-4 pm  
2828 Filbert #7, Oakland 1/1 ..... \$345,000 2-4 pm

public 2/8/02

# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!

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Charming two story, 3 bedroom, 1 bath house. Great Location, walk to BART.

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**LUCKY HOMES REALTY**  
A INVESTMENT INC.

## EL CERRITO



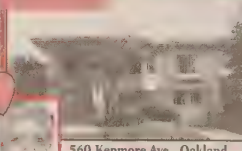
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1150 James Place

Bright & Spacious Colonial. 4+ Bedroom, 3+ Baths, Family Room, Library Office & Study. Plus, Complete Separate In-Law Unit. Plus, Great Artist's Studio or Recreation Room. Beautiful Level Lot with Pool.

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**Offered at \$475,000**

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Fabulous Bay Views Throughout

-- Seeing Is Believing!

3 Bedrooms & 3 Baths

**Laurel Strand**  
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## OAKLAND



**Open Sunday 2-5**  
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Big brown shingle in Oakland's Garden Neighborhood!

**Only \$449,000**

Oakland Native, Oakland & Berkeley Specialist

**Adrienne Nash, CRS**  
(510) 763-4060

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**Open Sunday 2-4**  
4025 Mera St. • Oakland

Nicely kept, 3BD/2BA home, living room w/hardwood flrs., fireplace & built-ins, formal dining rm., and family room plus a home office. Lrg. kitchen w/breakfast nook. For those beautiful summer days that we will be loving, there is a patio to enjoy. Now you'll have your own home entertainment center all at your convenience!

**Logene Butler**  
(510) 701-4344 Direct  
(510) 524-2526 Office

**Prudential**  
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## POINT RICHMOND



**Open Sunday 2-4pm**  
633 Ocean Avenue

Exquisitely redesigned Bay front 3BD/2.5BA home. 3-Bridge views, Hardwood flrs., fireplace, terraced decks, BEACH ACCESS.

**Only \$1,200,000**

**Nancy Foss**  
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Properties

## PIEDMONT



**Happy Valentine's Day to all the Sweethearts out there!**

**Madalyn Mitchell**  
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(510) 986-9517

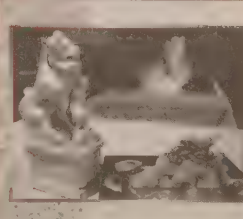


**Pear Street BISTRO**

Pear Street Bistro is a charming and bustling restaurant located in the heart of Historic Old Town downtown Pinole. Executive Chef Walter Escobar prepares cuisine which blends Rustic Italian and Country French to create a hearty style of home cooking. Bistro favorites include Pan Seared Chicken accompanied by garlic spinach and roasted potatoes. Grilled Lamb Chops served with garlic mashed potatoes and braised greens. Seared Salmon Fillet with garlic mashed potato, pesto, cherry tomato, Oysters on the Half Shell with a champagne mignonette. Passion for wine is evident in the wine list, which encompasses grape varieties from all around the world.

LUNCH - Mon-Fri 11-3  
DINNER - Sun-Thurs 3-9, Fri-Sat 3-10  
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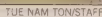


## Section C

## Inside 'Collateral' is damaged goods [C3]

See FIRST, Page C2

See QUIET, Page C2



**SURROUNDED BY PILOTS**, the Panthers' DaShawn Freeman looked to pass off to a teammate. Playing in Alameda on Feb. 1, St. Mary's stopped St. Joseph for a second time this season, winning 60-56.

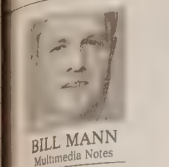
— Alameda High girls basketball coach Brad Thomas, commenting on the difficulty of playing against Berkeley. Berkeley beat Alameda 73-47 on Tuesday.







# Arts



## Enron's end-run

**YOU CAN ALWAYS** count on the bad boy of American daily journalism to come up with the best headline of the week. When Enron's former CEO, Kenneth Lay, refused to appear before Congress this week, the paper's clever headline was "No Da." One reader e-mails should have been "Con-Lay'd Off." Which is fitting, considering this is the caring company that routinely fired people by voice

mail. This week referred to Enronization as a case that may well have inspired other companies. Top New York Times columnist Paul Kravitz recently asked, "How many other Enrons are out there?" That's a major reason the market's been so shaky. "One of my editors at Topline recently told me this week, 'If Enron's not for Enron,' he added, 'I might be headed for it right now.' Meanwhile, at East Bay CPA's I've spoken to none too pleased by the image of their once-celebrated profession having been badly sullied by Arthur Enron's antics. Accountants always had both the public and a strait-laced image. Remember that great 'The Bank Dick' in W.C. Fields got a prissy banker drunk so he would cook the bank's books."

Enron interviewed one Enroner the other day who told the company's "rational" corporate culture. One Enroner, The Wall Street Journal has probably been the hardest-hitting reporter on Enron, revealed that federal securities regulator wanted to rein in Enron's questionable derivatives. Enron yanked out of a hospital last year because his daughter was still going surgery! This was Enron-friendly Congresswoman committee chairwoman her. Amazing — Enron's.

Enron's been the man in the spotlight, and sending out to proclaim his record and tell reporters the "broke" was not understood Rep. Gary Galt using his daughter to his innocence last fall. Enron suspects that you'll be the names of former Enron CFO Ken Skilling and CFO Jeff Fastow a lot before this sorry mess is over. While, former SEC Arthur Levitt was asked and threatened recently last year by corporate Louisiana Congressman Tauzin, reports The National Enron is the same little Enroner who's been the Enroner for years. Tauzin really forced Levitt to back any new Levitt to back on accounting firms' Enron's interest. Levitt told Enron, "Congress now will take action, for the reason it usually acts — Enron's." Tauzin, a Enron of right-wing pit bull Enron, then had the gall Enron this week that Enron should go to the Enron for the Enron debacle. So, what's your scheduled Enron for the next 5-10 Enron's?

one of the lucky ones, I dropped "only" a few Enron. I bought it top, at 89, as a hedge Enron before the Presidential Enron, figuring that George Enron connections with the Enron would make ENE Enron if he got elected. I wrote, I voted for Al Enron's He Now? Gore). I Enron magazine piece last Enron saying that even sea- Enron analysts couldn't



ARAXI DIJAN, Lizzie Calogero and Cynthia Bassham, with Phoebe Moyer in TheatreFIRST's production of "The Memory of Water."

## Sisters make theater productions a family affair

**IF WE WANTED** to be cute about it, we could collectively call the recent slew of East Bay theater offerings "Ladies in the Hood" — sisterhood, that is. A total of 10 female siblings have been featured so far in three productions, and another sister trio is waiting in the wings to open next Friday.

Actors Ensemble's production of Chekhov's "The Three Sisters," is still running Fridays and Saturdays at Live Oak Theatre through Feb. 16.

"Mornings At Seven," upped the ante (and please, not "auntie") by one more sister for a total of four at the Masquers Playhouse playing weekends through Feb. 23.

Then Central Works Theater Ensemble put together another three-sister cast for "Every Inch a King" which closed last Saturday at La Val's Subterranean.

**A FIRST AT 'FIRST':** Now TheatreFIRST's artistic director Clive Chafer is ready to introduce still another sister-three-some in the regional premiere of "The Memory of Water." Chafer is also directing the British import by Shelagh Stephenson which won the year 2000 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Comedy.

Describing the play, Chafer says, "In this witty, bittersweet comedy, three grown-up sisters are reunited for their mother's funeral in north Yorkshire. They have little in common: Mary, played by Araxi Djan, has pursued a successful career as a doctor in London. Teresa, played by Cynthia Bassham,



JACK TUCKER  
Community Theater

has stayed home and, like her parents, started a business with her husband. Catherine, the third sister, played by Lizzie Calogero, is hanging out in Spain."

Like the diversity of their lives, they agree on almost nothing — including what it was like growing up in their parents' home.

After a two-year hiatus, TheatreFIRST sprang back to life last November under Chafer's direction — and in a new downtown Oakland venue, the YWCA building on Webster at 15th St. — with a highly regarded production of "Love and Understanding."

The play received two awards, a Dean Goodman Choice Award for Best Ensemble Acting, another for Best Direction.

"The Memory of Water" plays at 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays through March 10. Tickets for next Thursday's preview are \$5, after that, \$15 on Thursdays and Sundays; \$19 on Fridays and Saturdays. If you're under 25, pay half price. Seniors, students and Theatre Bay Area members can take \$3 off full ticket prices. Call 510-436-5085.

**'UNMASKED!' AT ALBANY HIGH:** This is the last weekend for Albany High School Theater Ensemble's "Unmasked!" — an evening of two short student-directed plays. And they are both good choices by and for a bountifully talented and resourceful group of young thespians.

"The Lesson," by Eugene Ionesco is directed by Kevin Gamba and produced by Melia Tichenor.

"Beyond Therapy" by Christopher Durang is directed by Steve Band and produced by Christina Torpey.

Acting, directing, costumes, set, lighting, publicity and funding — all are by the students of Albany High School Theater Ensemble, under the supervision of Sarah Samonsky.

Tonight's and Saturday's performances start at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 5 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 general; \$5 for seniors and students. The Albany High Little Theater is at 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany. Call 510-524-1754, or click on theaterensemble@hotmail.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

**AM-HH, ROMANCE!** Finally, no column on the Friday before Valentine's Day next Thursday would be complete without taking note of that chubby little Cupid guy with his bow and arrow taking aim at all the lovemongers hereabout.

Thanks to Rica Anderson's news release on pink paper sprinkled with real, tiny, shiny red hearts, from the Julia Mor-

gan Center for the Arts, targeting "... anyone in love, out of love, needing, love, tired of love, over-loved, waiting for love, madly in love or all of the above."

What's up is a Valentine's Day Cabaret at the center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. The evening will feature cabaret singers and the Julia Morgan Ensemble singing jazz standards, show tunes, torch songs and a revenge song or two. Actors from California Shakespeare Festival, Central Works and Shotgun Players will perform "love-drenched sonnets," under the direction of the Shakespeare festival's Jonathan Moscone.

There'll even be an open mic spot available for bidding. Use it to send a message to a valentine, or even propose marriage. What the hey! It's Valentine's Day.

The flirtation begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Dancing encouraged. Lots of bubbly and deep, dark chocolate indulgences available to speed things along. Tickets are \$35 per person. Profits from the love-fest support Julia Morgan Center programs. Call 925-798-1300 for reservations.

Jack Tucker's column runs Fridays in the West County Weekly. Send items of interest to him c/o the West County Weekly, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@cctimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

## EVENTS

### Popular music

- ASHKENAZ —**
  - Steve Lucky and The Rhumba Bums, Feb. 8, 8:30 p.m. With Carmen Getit. A night of East Coast Swing and Lindy Hop. Dance lesson at 8 p.m. \$11.
  - Bob Marley Birthday Celebration, Feb. 9, 9:30 p.m. With Don Carlos and Reggae Angels. \$15.
  - California Friends of Louisiana French Music, Feb. 10, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. An afternoon of Cajun and Creole music and dance. Dance lesson at 2:15 p.m. \$8.
  - Johnny Otis, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m. Jazz, Blues and popular music.
  - Mardi Gras Party, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Featuring Michael Doucet and Beausoleil. Cajun Mardi Gras. 16.
  - Miz Dee and Home Cookin', Feb. 13, 8:30 p.m. West Coast Swing. Swing dance lesson at 7:30 p.m. \$8.
  - Wake the Dog, Feb. 14, 9 p.m. Valentine's Dance. \$8.
  - Bay Area Arts Collective: Nameless and Faceless. DJs Riddim, Joe Quixx, Poizen, Feb. 15, 9:30 p.m. Hip Hop. \$11.
  - African Rhythm Messengers, Chinyakare Dance Ensemble, Feb. 16, 9:30 p.m. Featuring Zimbabwe dancer Julia Psitsi Chigamba.
  - African Rhythm Messengers, Feb. 16, 9:30 p.m. \$11.
  - Butch Haines and East Bay Rhythm, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. Jazz. A benefit for the West Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation. \$10. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. (510) 525-5054 or www.ashkenaz.com

- BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH —**
  - Mission, Psychokinetics, Feb. 8, \$7.
  - Delfino, Lost Coast Band, Feb. 9, Funky Rock \$5.
  - Medusa, Feline Science, Feb. 10, Hip Hop \$8.
  - All Star Jam, Feb. 11. Featuring The Steve Cannon Band and Miz Dee. All genres. \$4.
  - Planting Seeds, Shady Lady, Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.
  - Auto Punch, Levelhead, Feb. 13, Rock. \$5.
  - Hebro, Feb. 13. Upstairs in the Tinbar. Free.
  - Electronica with Ascension, Feb. 14, Jungle. \$5.
  - KGB, Solemite, Feb. 15. Pop Rock. \$7.
  - SFunk, Feb. 16. Funk. \$5.
  - Roots Science, Feb. 17. For ages 18 and up. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. (510) 848-0886.
- CATO'S ALE HOUSE —**
  - Ben Bonham, Jimmy Sweetwater, Frank Novicki Trio, Feb. 10.
  - Irish Session, Feb. 13. Featuring fiddler Brian Theriault.
  - Phillip Greenleaf Trio, Feb. 17. Free. Shows at 6 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. (510) 655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

- DOWNTOWN —**
  - Aaron Greenblatt, piano, Tuesdays.
  - Dave Mathews, piano, Wednesdays.
  - Macy Blackman, piano, Thursdays. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 649-3810.

- FREIGHT AND SALVAGE —**
  - Lowen and Navarro, Anne McCue, Feb. 8.
  - Shana Morrison, Caledonia, Feb. 9.
  - Tom Paxton, Cosy Sheridan, Feb. 10, \$19.50 to \$20.50.
  - The Kruger Brothers, Feb. 12, \$15.50 to \$16.50.
  - The Mammals, All Wracked Up, Feb. 13, \$15.50 to \$16.50.
  - Lost Weekend, Feb. 14, \$16.50 to \$17.50.
  - The Frank Wakefield Band, Feb. 15, \$16.50 to \$17.50.
  - Steve Seskin and Friends, Feb. 16, \$16.50 to \$17.50.
  - Tom Rush, Feb. 17, \$18.50 to \$19.50. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15.50 to \$16.50, and music starts at 8 p.m. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 548-1761 or (510) 762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

- KIMBALLS EAST —**
  - The Whispers, Feb. 8 and Feb. 9, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. \$40. Call for unlisted prices. 6005 Shellmond St., Emeryville. (510) 762-BASS or www.kimballs.com

- LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER —**
  - Caricias Cubanas, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. \$12 to \$15.
  - Literary Benefit Concert, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. With Carmelita Tropicana, Cheri Moraga, 8th Wonder, Leticia Hernandez, Las Cucas. \$7 to \$10.

## After Sept. 11, 'Collateral' is damaged goods

By Mary F. Pols  
STAFF WRITER

There have been signs lately that our national mourning period over the events of Sept. 11 might be drawing to a close. The flags over the freeways are tattered. Flying no longer seems like walking a tightrope. And the few movies deemed too painful or inappropriate for us to watch back then, in the early, awful days, are starting to show up in our theaters.

"Collateral Damage," a piece of revenge porn starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, is one such movie. Schwarzenegger plays a firefighter who watches his wife and small child die in a terrorist bombing at an L.A. high-rise. You can see why studio executives made the decision to put the picture on the shelf last fall. There were even murmurings that "Collateral Damage" would never see the light of day.

What a good and honorable decision that would have been. Not that "Collateral Damage" is much different from most of our customary dumb American action fare, rife with explosions, implausible situations and hackneyed dialogue. But it arrives stinking of before we bothered to stop and think about terrorists and their motivations, and as such it feels embarrassing, like being reminded mid-hangover about the



ITALIAN ACTRESS Francesca Neri plays the wife of "El Lobo," a Colombian terrorist who has killed the wife and child of a firefighter (Arnold Schwarzenegger), in "Collateral Damage."

dumb things you did when you were drunk.

Furthermore, it's insulting to be made to feel as though we should now be recovered enough to sit down with a bag of popcorn

and be entertained by buildings exploding in the downtown of one of our major urban centers. I don't know about you, but I found myself in the unusual position of crying during the Super Bowl this

year — watching all those names scroll across the screen behind U2 — a good indicator that I was not ready for "Collateral Damage."

See DAMAGE, Page C5

See EVENTS, Page C5



## NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Vera H-C Chan and Mary F. Pids, Times; Robert W. Butler, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Anthony Breznican, Christy Lemire and Tim Molloy, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Bob Strauss, Los Angeles Daily News; Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times; and Gary Dowell, Tom Maustard and Chris Vogner, Dallas Morning News.

**"AMELIE":** A feel-good movie in the best possible sense, a comic fable from French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet that vibrates with joy and fast-dances with life. Amelie (the relentlessly charming Audrey Tautou) is a lonely young lady who keeps a watchful eye on the rest of the world. One day she sets out to reunite a child's treasure with its long-grown owner and discovers she likes playing emotional Robin Hood. Setting out on a path to help her neighbors and the denizens of the cafe where

she works, she inadvertently trips into a love affair with a guy (Mathieu Kassovitz) who might be as sweetly eccentric as she is. Every time you think the movie is getting too sticky-sweet, Jeunet throws something tart and funny in our path. — M. Pols. (R: sexual content) 2 hours. A

**"AMERICAN ADOBO":** Everybody who makes an immigrant-adjustment movie undoubtedly thinks that they're providing unique insights into a singularly dramatic experience. This film is the Filipino version. The cast of characters consists of five old college friends from Manila, all of whom live in varying degrees of comfort in New York City. Personal crises abound and boil over clumsily to staged revelations about dating partners and pat generational misunderstandings. The film often seems superficial and awkward; on the other hand, the actors, with their conversations that slip fluidly between English and Tagalog, lend palpable authenticity to their characterizations. — B. Strauss. (R: nudity, sex, language) 1 hour, 42

minutes. C+

**"A BEAUTIFUL MIND":** Very good by-the-book filmmaking from director Ron Howard. The film spans 47 years in the life of John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe), a mathematical genius who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. Doubtless the element that made Crowe want to play Nash (brilliantly, as usual) is that Nash also suffers from schizophrenia, and has for decades. Daring only in its subject matter — math and mental illness — the movie follows the careful trajectory of a classic inspirational story, occasionally veering into the medicinal, but still undeniably moving and effective. Jennifer Connelly is excellent as Nash's wife. — M. Pols. (PG-13: intense thematic material, sexual content and a scene of violence) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B+

**"BEIJING BICYCLE":** Bicycles are as synonymous with Beijing as cabs are with Manhattan, and when the hero, Gwei (Cui Lin), of this superb and har-

rowing film, joins the swarm of cyclists who crowd the city's streets, he stands for countless young people who have made the journey from the country to China's capital in search of a better life. Gwei considers himself lucky: He has landed a messenger job that provides him with a mountain bike that will become his once he has earned 700 yuan, which is about \$85 American. But the story takes off in earnest when the bike is stolen and his only chance of keeping his job is to find the bike. What emerges is a portrait of modern urban life at its most brutalizing. From start to finish, "Beijing Bicycle" moves adroitly with the emotional impact of a relentless steamroller. — K. Thomas. (PG-13: some violence and brief nudity) 1 hour, 43 minutes. A-

**"BIRTHDAY GIRL":** A minor dark comedy with a major star. Nicole Kidman can now add a credible rendition of a sultry Russian to her impressive résumé. "Birthday Girl" won't withstand the test of time, but the plot is unpredictable enough and Kidman is strong enough to keep your attention focused. John (Ben Chaplin) has a stable job and a stable life until he orders a Russian mail-order bride Nadia (Kidman) off the Internet. Her inability to speak English means their courtship has communication problems, except for it in the bedroom. Then Nadia's cousins arrive for her birthday, all hell breaks loose and we head into "Something Wild" territory. — M. Pols. (R: sexuality and language) 1 hour, 33 minutes. B-

**"BLACK HAWK DOWN":** Director Ridley Scott takes an unflinching look at a 1993 conflict — a planned 45-minute "extraction" of a Somali warlord's top men — that instead became a blood bath that killed 19 Americans and an estimated 1,000 Somalis. Co-starring in a large cast including Ewan McGregor and Sam Shepard. Josh Harnett as Rangers Staff Sergeant Matt Eversmann is not so much the leading man as the terribly involved observer through which the audience becomes terribly involved itself. The riveting photography, technical language and pounding exchange of gunfire contribute to a gruesome realism without sensationalizing it. — V. Chan. (R: strong violence, language) 2 hours, 23 minutes. A-

**"BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF":** What starts out as a freakish mystery about two men hunting a predatory beast in 18th-century France develops into a mishmash parody of kinkbocking and ludicrous occult shenanigans. The French-language thriller draws from real events, when nearly 100 people died horribly, attacked by some unknown creature in the 1760s. Heading the investigation are Frönsac (Samuel Le Bihan), a royal naturalist, and his assistant, Mani (Mark Dacascos), an American Indian. The film has some good twists, but for the most part it seems to be chasing its tail. — A. Breznican. (R: strong violence, gore and nudity) 2 hours, 22 minutes. D+

**"THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO":** In this version of Alexandre Dumas' classic 1846 saga, revenge is not merely sweet, but also picturesque and exciting. When first seen, Edmond Dantes (Jim Caviezel) is sweet, trusting and naive. Fernando Mondego (Guy Pearce) lusts after Edmond's fiancée, Mercedes (Dagmara Dominczyk), and engineers a plot to frame his friend for treason. The shattered Edmond is sentenced to a notorious island prison where he spends 13 years. With the help of another inmate, the Abbe Faria (Richard Harris), he dauntlessly escapes prison, reinvents himself as the mysterious Count of Monte Cristo and extracts revenge from his surprised enemies. — P. Wuntch. (PG-13: violence, language, sensuality) 2 hours. B

**"THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING":** A soulful, passionate giant of a movie, one that will live long past 2001. New Zealand director Peter Jackson's ("Heavenly Creatures") adaptation of the first third of J.R.R. Tolkien's epic "Lord of the Rings" enraptures you with its dramatic storytelling and visuals and leaves you rejoicing that there are filmmakers out there who have the guts to make a movie destined for vast commercial success that's also intelligent and ferociously heartfelt. Terrifying when it should be, moving when it should be, this holds true to Tolkien's vision. One of the best movies of the year. — M. Pols. (PG-13: epic battle sequences and scary images) 2 hours, 58 minutes. A

**"GOSFORD PARK":** There are no tuts or tight-lips in this comic murder mystery from director Robert Altman, but make no mistake, this is ballet on film. Every aspect, from its ultimate ensemble cast to the meticulous recreation of the staid England of years gone by, could have been treacherous, but instead it emerges triumphant, spinning together as elegantly as a stage full of dancers on pointe, moving in unbelievable unison. It's 1932 and times are changing for the gentry. Altman's camera dips, whirrs and races along, tying together the moneyed upstairs of a country estate and the still respectful but increasingly resentful downstairs. He hasn't been this good in a decade. — M. Pols. (R: some language and brief sexuality) 2 hours, 17 minutes.

**"HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE":** Director Chris

## OPENING TODAY

**"BIG FAT LIAR" (PG)**  
"Malcolm in the Middle's" Frankie Muniz plays a kid who has to prove a sleazy Hollywood producer stole his class paper and turned it into a hit movie.

**"CHOP SUEY" (NR)**  
Bruce Weber, the celebrated fashion and figure photographer, and his latest discovery are spotlighted in this documentary. Opens today at the Castro, S.F.

**"COLLATERAL DAMAGE" (R)**  
Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a firefighter seeking revenge for his family's death in a terrorist bombing in a Los Angeles high-rise building. The film's release was delayed after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Columbus has done what fans of J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books prayed he'd do, bringing the story of the orphaned 11-year-old wizard to life exactly as we all envisioned it. There are flaws here and there, mistakes that often go hand in hand with "big" movies — way too much music, a nip and a tuck here and there in a story that sprawled magnificently on the page, and computer work that occasionally shows the limitations of movie magic. But the three young stars far exceed expectations, and the adult cast is just right. How you'll feel about this picture if you're not already in Harry's thrall is an entirely different question, one we're not ashamed to admit we can't answer. — M. Pols. (PG: some scary moments and mild language) 2 hours, 32 minutes. A-

**"I AM SAM":** All movies are manipulative on some level, but this one, cut from the cloth of movies of the week, is ruthlessly intent on reducing its audience to snuffing mannequins. Sean Penn is very good as a mentally challenged man trying to hold onto his young daughter (Dakota Fanning) even though the courts say she'd be better off with a "normal" foster family. So is Michelle Pfeiffer, playing the brittle, selfish lawyer who learns a life lesson while trying to help him. But neither of them can overcome the cloying, patronizing and endless story. The soundtrack, however, with covers of great Beatles songs done by today's gods and goddesses of music, is the best thing about this movie. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language) 2 hours, 12 minutes. C-

**"IN THE BEDROOM":** A beautifully directed, written and acted movie about guilt, blame and loss, set in a small seaside town in Maine. Sissy Spacek and Tom Wilkinson star as parents whose lives change after their son (Nick Stahl) gets involved in a potentially dangerous relationship. Spacek will almost certainly get an Oscar nomination for her unrelentingly powerful performance, and first-time director Todd Field has made a name for himself. Bleak, but one of the year's best. — M. Pols. (R: some violence and language) 2 hours, 10 minutes. A

**"ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS":** Strangest of surprises, the latest offering from Dogma 95, the Danish film movement more known for being disturbing than for being cheery, introduces the concept of love and happiness to the movement. Six lonely people take Italian lessons one winter in Copenhagen and begin, tentatively, to gravitate toward each other. Not a traditional chick flick, though; it's got its fair share of depressing elements, such as death, addiction, fetal alcohol syndrome and sexual dysfunction, buried within the froth of love and comedy. And it's inescapably a Dogma movie: murky and drab. But it's still got the heart to warm us through the chill of winter. — M. Pols. (R: language and some sexuality) 1 hour, 39 minutes. A-

**"JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS":** Brainy 10-year-old Jimmy gets himself into plenty of hot water with radical inventions like shrink rays and rocket ships. But when all the grown-ups in Jimmy's hometown are kidnapped by space aliens, Jimmy and his friends must construct a home-made space armada, fight the evil aliens and rescue their parents in time for dinner. It's a simple story packed with a lot of charm and plenty of gags for both children and parents. Jimmy's creators obviously remember what it was like to be a kid, and they've channeled those memories into a delightful movie. — G. Dowell. (G) 1 hour, 17 minutes. B+

**"KANDAHAR":** In director Mohsen Makhmalbaf's worthy but flat movie, a woman who escaped Afghanistan as a child returns as an educated, liberated journalist on a mission to find and convince her suicidal sister that there is reason to live. Journalist Nelofer Pazira, who plays the woman, undertook a similar journey several years ago on a friend's behalf, and the film mixes the styles of feature and documentary films without satisfying the goals of either medium. It doesn't help that Pazira and most of the actors are not just amateur, but uncomfortable on-camera. But this is still a view onto a world we need to know more about, and Makhmalbaf is a mastery of beautiful imagery. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 25 minutes. B-

**"KUNG POW: ENTER THE FIST":** Like some Frankenstein's monster of

**"ROLLERBALL" (PG-13)**  
A remake of the 1975 sci-fi movie about a violent extreme sport, "American Pie's" Chris Klein stars as the sport's biggest star, who ends her playing for her life.

**"SHIRI" (R)**  
Action film set in the modern conflict between North and South Korea.

**"STORYTELLING" (R)**  
Director Todd Solondz ("Happiness") delivers two unusual tales about storytelling. In the first, a college student has a affair with her writing professor; the second, an aimless high school student is the subject of a documentary.

filmmaking, this man-made been stitched together with director, Steve Oedekerk, as his main source an obscure karate film, "Tiger and Crane" with new dialogue and added over the original. Oedekerk's technology to insert the old film as the new movie's add scenes. The result is a bit of inspiration. As usual, the scenes defy both gravity and physics; blood spurts, good movie viewers can get on with the outtakes. — L. van Gelder. (R: violence, language, sexual content) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C-

**"LANTANA":** The discovery of a corpse sets the theme for this though it is just as much a thriller as it is a complex case investigation into the difficulties of marriage. The cuses on four couples, and cast top-lined by Anthony Hopkins and Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey. The film is so much emotion to make its story. All these people figure in the film, but it's not as much as it is. Eventually get the information needed, little of it comes out of Rather, "Lantana" feels a bit edge slowly and obliquely, markedly thoughtful drama, clear not only how hard it is by any emotional content, but, more importantly, why we give up on the struggle. — (R: language and sexuality) A-

**"THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE":** Ethan and Joel Coen's black-and-white homage to film noir, a creative take on the experimentation artists in the 1940s are paid. Billy Bob Thornton is fascinating to watch as a 1940s barber who masters of blackmailing his wives (James Gandolfini) to get to invest in a dry cleaning. With its fantastically cool wit, this is distinctly Coen's fare, but if you compare it to their other work, it feels more like the brothers needed to say, "A Fargo." Of course, even an itch is going to be iting. — M. Pols. (R: some violence) 1 hour, 55 minutes. A

**"MONSTER'S BALL":** Love hangs over the first half of Marc Forster's movie about a man (Billy Bob Thornton) who is the loneliest of a single mother (Halle Berry) and the electric chair (Greg Kinnear) and a friendless man has just realized he has live for (Billy Bob Thornton) and Thornton are both out as a pair of unlikely lovers and beautiful movie, it doesn't rain never stops. It doesn't offering one of the most of redemptive stories we've seen since "Dead Man Walking." Pols. (R: strong sexual content, language, violence) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A

**"MONSTERS, INC.":** The rich imaginations at the Disney-based animation house of children everywhere will find a new perspective on the world they fear may lurk under their beds. The genius premise here is of course monsters are not scary. They're terrified of us, but they continue to frighten us because back in monsterhood, power is harnessed and the main source of energy is the innocence of the world's children. Created an energy crisis, a wonderful, funny story for family, rich with visual gags and major heart. Voices by Goodman and Billy Crystal. Others. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 25 minutes. A-

**"THE MOTHMAN PROPHECY":** The movie's basic concept taken from John A. Walker's book of the same name, how, in the year or so before a horrendous bridge collapse, Ohio River in 1967, many a town reported visions of a white, mothlike creature, which is better at creating a tingling atmosphere than at giving a clear notion of what's around the death of the bridge. The modern-day reporter (Richard Gere) to investigate goings-on in a town where Laura Linney and Deborah Kara Cienfuegos star in this supernatural thriller. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sex) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B-

## FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Times and showtimes subject to change. Call theaters for information

\* Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday February 8

## Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave. Albany 510-843-3456  
•Amelie (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30  
•Gosford Park (R) 1, 4, 7, 10

## California Theatre

2113 Kirtledge St., Berkeley 510-843-3456

\* Theatre Temp. Closed for Earthquake Retrofit.

## Century 16 Bayfair Mall

350 Bayfair Mall, San Leandro 510-266-5694

•A Beautiful Mind 11:10, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20  
•A Walk to Remember (PG) 12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45

•Big Fat Liar (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 3:55, 6:15, 8:25, 10:30

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 12:45, 3:15, 7:40, 10:10

•Black Hawk Down (R) 12:50, 4:10, 7:05, 10:05

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 1, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15

•Collateral Damage 11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25

•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:40, 4:10

•Am Sam (PG-13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30

•Kung Pow: Enter the Fist (PG-13) 11:30, 1:35, 3:30, 5:25, 7:45, 9:50

•Monsters Ball (R) 12:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15

•Rollerball (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15

•Slackers (R) 7:15, 9:40

•Snow Dogs (PG) 11:35, 2:40, 5:50, 9:30

•The Count of Monte Cristo 12:40, 3:45, 6:55, 9:40

•The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12:10, 3:50, 7:20

•The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 4:50, 7:35, 10:10

## Century 25 Union City

32100 Alameda Blvd., Union City 510-487-5593

•A Beautiful Mind 12:40, 3:45, 7:05, 9:55

•A Walk to Remember (PG) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 8:20, 9:40, 11:55

•Big Fat Liar (PG) 11:15, 12:20, 1:25, 2:30, 3:35, 4:40, 5:55, 7:10, 9:15, 10:20, 11:25

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 9:35, 11:50

•Black Hawk Down (R) 11:40, 12:50, 3:15, 4:25, 6:55, 7:40, 10:45

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 12:55, 4:05, 7:20, 10:25

•Collateral Damage (R) 11:20, 12:10, 1:05, 1:55, 2:45, 3:40, 4:30, 5:25, 6:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:50, 10:40, 11:30, 12:15

•Gosford Park (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:35, 10:35

•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 11:55, 3:20

•Am Sam (PG-13) 1:15, 4:20, 7:30, 10:25

•In the Bedroom (R) 12:35, 3:55, 7:10, 10:05

•Kung Pow: Enter the Fist (PG-13) 11:15, 1:20, 3:20, 5:25, 7:45, 9:55, 12:10

•Monsters Ball 11:30, 2:45, 5:10, 9:45, 12:05

•Orange County 11:35, 1:40, 3:50, 6:10, 8:25

•Rollerball (PG-13) 11:25, 12:15, 1:25, 2:45, 3:55, 5:10, 6:15, 7:10, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 12:15

•Slackers (R) 11:10, 1:40, 3:40, 5:50, 8:10, 10:10, 12:10

•Snow Dogs (PG) 12:30, 3:50, 7:55, 10:15

•The Count of Monte Cristo 1:45, 7:35, 10:30

•The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) 11:25, 8:10, 7:35, 10:45

•The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13) 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

•Snow Dogs (PG) 11:40, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55

•The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13) 11:10, 2:45, 7:40, 10:25

## Hayward 9

19901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 510-785-8000

•A Walk to Remember 11:40, 2:40, 5:40, 7:15, 9:40

•Big Fat Liar (PG) 12:20, 3:40, 7:20, 9:30

•Black Hawk Down (R) 12:10, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15

•Collateral Damage 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10

•Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) 12:50, 4:20

•Am Sam (PG-13) 12:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

•Rollerball (PG-13) 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

•Slackers (R) 7:50, 10:20

•The Count of Monte Cristo 12:40, 4:10, 7:40, 9:50

•The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12:20, 4:10, 8:10

## Naz 8 Cinemas

39400 Argonaut Way, Fremont 510-797-2000

•Kandahar (Not Rated) 5, 7, 9, 11

•Mesa Tuhe Salaam (Not Rated) 5

•Munnudi (Not Rated) 9:30

•Praja (Not Rated) 9

•Razaz (Not Rated) 5, 7, 9, 11

•Tamil Movie 5, 11

•Telugu Movie 8, 11

## Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1836

•Am Sam (PG-13) 7:15, 9:45

•The Shipping News (R) 7:15, 9:30

## Piedmont Theatre

4185 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456

•Amelie (R) 1, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15

•Gosford Park (R) 1:15, 4:45, 9:30

•The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:45, 9:45

## Shattuck Theatre

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456

•A Walk to Remember (PG) 1:20, 4:40, 9:20

•Big Fat Liar (PG) 12:55, 3:50, 7:15, 9:25

•Kandahar (Not Rated) 1:05, 3:40, 6:20, 9:10

•Lantana (R) 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10

•Metropolis (PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10

•Storytelling (R) 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

•The Count of Monte Cristo 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50

•The Mothman Prophecies 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:45

•The Royal Tenenbaums (R) 1:50, 4:25, 7:35, 9:55

•What Time Is It There? (Not Rated) 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

## United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487

•A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) 11:45, 3:30, 10:35

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:45, 10:10

•Black Hawk Down (R) 12:30, 7:05, 10:20

•Brotherhood of the Wolf (R) 12:15, 3:45, 7:35, 10:10

•Collateral Damage (R) 11:10, 2:5, 5, 8, 10:45

•Rollerball 11:05, 1:45, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

•The Lord of the Rings 11:25, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

## United Artists Emery Bay 10

6330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0107

•A Beautiful Mind 10:50, 1:45, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

•Black Hawk Down (R) 12:30, 3:10, 7:10, 10:30



# 'Storytelling' a disjointed experience Mann

By Mary F. Pols  
STAFF WRITER

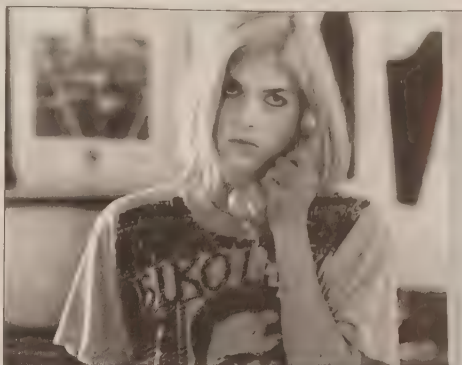
Director Todd Solondz's disappointing new movie "Storytelling" is about just that. This is roughly equivalent to saying that the 11 o'clock news is about the news.

To lend some complexity to the concept of a movie about storytelling, Solondz ("Welcome to the Dollhouse," "Happiness") divides it up into two lopsided sections. In the first, shorter piece, a college student, Vi (Selma Blair), struggles to write fiction her reading college professor (Robert Wisdom) will approve of. In the second, Toby (Paul Giamatti) a documentary filmmaker who has no idea what he's doing, makes a suburban family into their slacker son Scooby (Mark Webber), a high school senior who doesn't want to go to college.

The stories make plenty of asides, and they consistently go right to the heart of what makes us weak. Curiously, Solondz, seems to have no interest in what makes us strong, except the strength gathered from enduring pain. In his world, everyone's first assumption about others is negative, hostile. "You pervert!" Scooby asks Toby when they first meet. Vi makes the same sort of negative assumptions, then sets out, unsuccessfully, to prove herself wrong.

But other than that loose theme, the movie's two halves are unrelated, and therein lies the problem. You come out thinking, how did those two get chummed together? What was the point? Solondz could have told both stories more thoroughly, separately, and he could have just picked one to go with it. Instead, he got stuck and gave us his least-satisfying, most self-indulgent work yet.

"Fiction," the Selma Blair part of the movie, feels like the short story that gets tacked onto a novella for publishing purposes. As a leftover, even though it's unrelated, it's a bit of a nuisance. Solondz plays Vi, a surly girl with dark hair and a deep-seated desire to live a politically correct life. She's sleeping with a fellow student (Leo Fitzpatrick) who has a version of "Dollhouse's" Walter Matarazzo, and the implication is that she's doing it because she feels sorry for him. Mr. Scott, the black author the Pulitzer Prize-winning "A Sunday Lynching," who has with resentment over be-



SELMA BLAIR stars as college student Vi in "Storytelling."

## REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Storytelling"

■ **STARRING:** Selma Blair, Leo Fitzpatrick, Robert Wisdom, Mark Giamatti, John Goodman, Paul Webber, Julie Hagerty

■ **RATING:** R (strong sexual content, language and some drug use)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 23 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at the Shattuck, Berkeley, and the Embarcadero, S.F.

■ **GRADE:** C

ing stuck teaching at a lousy college (we tend to doubt this; he'd be scooped up by an Ivy League school in a heartbeat).

When Vi goes home with Mr. Scott one night, she discovers a stash of photos depicting one of her fellow students, naked and tied up by Mr. Scott. "Don't be racist, don't be racist," she murmurs to herself in the bathroom mirror, before going out to meet her own unpleasant fate of cruel, cold sex.

Because Solondz is so daring — oh, please — he refused to cut the scene that follows for the rating board, blocking out the naughty bits with a red square instead. This only enhances the superficial nature of our moviegoing experience. What can you think about when you watch a red square for a solid minute? Certainly not Vi's plight.

In the movie's second, better half, titled "Nonfiction," perpetual loser Toby (Giamatti) sets out to capture the high school experience in a documentary, probably because high school was the last time he felt good about himself, the last time he rejected peo-

ple before they rejected him. His subject is the forlorn Scooby (Webber), a tragically funny character whose sole dream is to be on television, maybe in a Conan O'Brien sort of capacity. Scooby is an all-too-real representation of a segment of America's youth, and Webber, with a hangdog face and stoner eyes, is a genuine find, an actor you just have to watch.

Solondz' dark sense of humor is not for everyone. But if you like it, as I generally do, you'll get some good sick chuckles out of watching Scooby's odious family eat dinner and bicker. Dad (John Goodman, right on target) and Mom (Julie Hagerty) are still in shock over how badly their eldest child has turned out. Middle brother Brady (Noah Fleiss) is a knucklehead, and the youngest, Mikey (Jonathan Osser), is the meanest child on the planet. His interactions with the family maid Consuelo (the vaunted Lupe Ontiveros) are studies in why people despise the privileged.

"Storytelling" is intended to be an alienating experience, but it surpasses its goal, sending us right into the stratosphere of alienation. Solondz mocks everything in sight, including anyone in the audience who liked "American Beauty" (he's reportedly got a feud going with director Sam Mendes and spoofs the movie in a sequence featuring trash blowing in the wind). You can get some laughs out of it, but all in all, you get the sense that Solondz hates us all; that he comes at us from a perspective of moral, cultural and intellectual superiority.

Which begs the question, if he's so much better than us, why couldn't he make a better, or at least complete, movie?

■ **One Time Angels, Eleven-teen, Audicrusher, Counterfit, Bikini Nurses, Feb. 15.**

■ **Iron Vegan, Nigel Peppercock, Lost Goat, Iron Lung, De-pressor, Feb. 16. \$5. Music at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. (510) 525-9926.**

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE —** Teddy Pendergrass, Feb. 17, 8 p.m. \$39.75 to \$55.25. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 625-TIXS, (415) 421-TIXS or www.cc.com

## THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB

■ **Mumble and Peg, Fullbliss, Feb. 8. \$5.**

■ **The Buckets, Calamity and Main, Sons of Emperor Norton, Feb. 9. \$5.**

■ **The Dan Lange Band, Blue Eyed Devils, Missin' Cousins, Feb. 14. \$4.**

■ **Dickie Brothers, Rube Waddell, Brian Kenney Fresno, Feb. 15. \$6.**

■ **Camper Van Chadbourne, Dandeline, Feb. 16. \$7.**

■ **"The Starry Irish Session," Sunday, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.**

■ **"Dance Class and Ceili," Monday, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.**

■ **"Poetry Slam with MC Charles and Elik," Wednesday, 8:30 p.m. \$5. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 841-2082.**

## Events

FROM PAGE C3

■ **Nova Trova, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. Sunday Lobby Concert. \$5.**

■ **Silvia Tabush in Concert, Feb. 15. 8 p.m. \$12 to \$14.**

■ **Omaya, Lunar Heights, DJ Matt U Nice, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. \$8 to \$10.**

■ **Charanga Nueve, Feb. 17, 10 p.m. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 849-2568 or www.apena.org**

■ **924 GILMAN ST. —** Divit, Scissorhands, Rufio, Look Down, Fenway Park, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.

■ **Pansy Division, Subincision, Rock and Roll Adventure, The Fadeaways, Feb. 9.**

■ **Tragedy, Tragatelo, Feb. 10, 5 p.m.**

## Damage

FROM PAGE C3

For those of you who are, here's a brief synopsis: We meet Los Angeles firefighter Gordy Koteas (the Schwarzenegger) wife and kid at the beginning of the movie. She looks like Kelly Preston; he looks like Arnold. They basically play the role customarily played by the family dog in movies like "The Godfather." Gordy, in the role of wagging his tails, they are, is a man who, as he approaches the Colombian consulate, his unfortunate choice is to spot on the day terror-

ism is a bomb. The terrorist responsible for the bombing is quickly identified as "El Lobo," the Wolf, aka Claudio (Cliff Curtis), a Colombian who does all his own work. In a tape aired on television, he explains his motivation, and the audio was muffled and only caught "Since we're from your country, blah blah." There's nothing obvious in this tape, but the politics, which are deliberately vague.

El Lobo gets away, of course, and the U.S. government basically throws up its arms and declines to follow. Devious agent Peter Brandt (Elias

## REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Collateral Damage"

■ **STARRING:** Arnold Schwarzenegger, Elias Koteas, Francesca Neri, John Leguizamo, John Turturro

■ **RATING:** R (for violence and language)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 55 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters

■ **GRADE:** D

■ **RELATED STORY:** Films delayed after Sept. 11 are now coming to a theater near you. Page 16

Koteas, the terrorist from "Executive Decision" is called off the case, but he, not being a team player, heads back to Colombia (apparently in this universe, a rogue CIA officer can slip off to South America and continue operating without approval from headquarters).

Being a man of action, Gordy doesn't waste time with the typical grieving process. He narrows his eyes and sets off on an insane quest to get into Colombia without a visa, find El Lobo's hideout, a place so secret the CIA can't find it, and kill him. As he journeys through Colombia, showing an uncanny ability to survive many hardships, Gordy

encounters two entertaining actors slumming it to finance their summer homes, John Turturro and John Leguizamo. Their presence, sadly, does not elevate "Collateral Damage."

Collateral damage is, naturally enough, the theme of the movie. When Gordy hears his wife and child described thus, it devastates him. As you might imagine, he causes his own share of collateral damage along his path to revenge, although he does spare Claudio's wife (played by the spectacular Italian actress Francesca Neri) and son. Note the exquisite symmetry of the plot.

Bless the MPAA for slapping this with a much-deserved R rating. The violent acts depicted on-screen include a gag-inducing scene of a man being force-fed a poisonous snake, a gruesome electrocution, death by ax blade to the chest, not to mention numerous explosions throughout. Arnold bites off a chunk of flesh from one of the guerrillas at one point. Could have been a nose, or an ear — can't say for sure, because I averted my eyes at a crucial moment and only saw him spit out the chunk.

Mary Pols is the Times movie critic. She can be reached at 925-945-4741 or at mpols@cctimes.com.

FROM PAGE C3

fathom Enron's murky finances. The stock was dropping, so I sold at 59 — dollars, not cents. So I came out of it a lot better than many of Enron's voice-mailed former employees.

And the Enron jokes continue apace. One of the most timely: The downhill events at next week's Winter Olympics will be sponsored by — who else? — Enron.

**MEDIA NOTES:** As you may know, The Rupert Murdoch-owned Post's Page One headlines are legendary. Perhaps the most famous: "Headless Body Found in Topless Bar," a copy of which hangs in my CBS MarketWatch boss,

CEO Larry Kramer's, San Francisco office. (Kramer's an old newspaper man). Two other memorable ones include the head that appeared when Michael Jackson began a comeback tour about 10 years ago right after the pedophilia unpleasantness: "Wacko Jacko Back!" proclaimed the Post. "The Post probably has the cleverest headlines around," a top editor and headline writer at the National Enquirer in Florida told me this week —

and the Enquirer and its sister publication, the World Weekly News, are no slouches (e.g., "First UFO To Destroy Major City," "Martha Stewart Is Mentally Ill."). One Post headline that hit home at the Enquirer appeared after the supermarket tabloid's former publisher, Generoso Pope, died 15 years ago. The Post's funny headline infuriated Pope's family: "Enquirer Owner Goes to Meet With Elvis." The Post also had fun in May 2000, when KRON's brand-new afternoon weather-

man, Mark Danon, was busted by the NYPD for allegedly selling two bags of coke just outside the studios of WCBS-TV. The Post's headline: "TV Forecaster Snowed Under in Coke Bust." Danon and his fiancée, WCBS news anchor Dana Adams, both left the station

soon thereafter. The Post also called Danon "hunky".

Speaking of the new, non-NBC-impaired Channel 4, one of its worst ideas of late is its new, "News You Can Use" feature that sounds like it came straight from a paid consultant. You may have seen this silly segment: KRON Gives you a choice of three stories, and you vote on which one will air on a subsequent newscast. One day this week, you could vote on one story called "Coffee: Good or Bad for You?" Don't know if this one won KRON's instapoll, but let's just suppose it lost, and that this was breakthrough research saying that over three cups a day caused some serious health problems (if that's true, I'm in big trouble). But sorry, viewers voted against it.

And while we're on the topic of health, KGO Radio's impish, nationally syndicated Dr. Dean Edell had always spiced up his 1-2 p.m. medical talk show with lots of calls of a personal/sexy nature. But one caller last week was so off the wall it semi-flustered the usually unflappable radio doc: A woman claimed she'd actually been nursing her pet cat for six months. (It had all started with the cat sucking on her sweater, but things got out of control). As I listened and doubled up in laughter, Edell, grasping for a quick comeback, asked the caller, "Um, what's the cat's name?" (Gandhi, if you really must know.) Edell sent me a funny poem he'd composed when I e-mailed him about that call, which I can't print in its entirety here. It starts out, "Here, kitty, kitty, kitty."

"NBC-3" spokesperson Ericka Taylor says engineering and interference problems have scuttled the San Jose station's plans to park low-power trucks in the East Bay and elsewhere to use as transmitters so that uncabled viewers can see NBC's Olympics the next two weeks. Of the 10,000 or so complaints KNTV has received about bad over-the-air reception, Taylor said many came from Oakland, Piedmont and

Alameda zip codes. "I drove around in a truck with the engineers trying to get our signal, and it was weak to nonexistent in parts of the East Bay," she admits. And if you're among those upset by NBC taping the Olympics to air in prime time, don't blame NBC. Blame the local affiliates — they didn't want to lose precious revenue from their local 5 and 6 p.m. local newscasts. Even before it had become an NBC affiliate last summer, KNTV's top exec Bob Franklin was on the record in favor of taping the Olympics. Yeah, we'd sure hate to do without a Terilyn Joe newscast, wouldn't we?

Local NPR affiliate KQED-FM, which already has more listeners (over 660,000) each week than even stations in much bigger markets like L.A. and New York, has achieved another, perhaps even more impressive, ratings milestone: In the latest Arbitron ratings, KQED (88.5 FM) snatched the top spot in the "money demo" — all listeners ages 25-54 — away from the commercial stations in both the critical morning and afternoon drive-time spots. Most commercial stations, which continue to put out the same standardized juke-box crap you can hear in Phoenix, Tulsa, or Cincinnati, would kill for KQED's 25-54 numbers. But the concept of actually improving the quality of their product is out of the question.

Finally today, speaking of KQED, one guest on its "Talk of the Nation" NPR show the other day was the editor of American Demographics Magazine. She was promoting her new book on the growing trend of divorces being filed by younger and younger people (mostly Gen-X'ers), noting that 20 percent of U.S. marriages now end within five years. She called this phenomenon — I hadn't heard this term, and I'll bet you hadn't either — "starter marriages."

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at newsmann@sonic.net)

## Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

**"NO MAN'S LAND":** Two wounded soldiers — one a Bosnian, Ciki (Branko Djuric), the other a Serb, Nino (Rene Bitorajac) — trapped in a trench midway between opposing enemy lines, argue about which side started the war. Their power struggle is complicated when Cera (Filip Sovagovic), a comrade of Ciki's who was presumed dead, stirs to life. His body was placed on a mine. If Cera is moved, Ciki and Nino will be killed along with him. Cera's only hope is that an expert can be found to deactivate the mine. Ciki and Nino's only hope lies in teamwork. They stagger out of the trench together waving white flags, and soon the wounded soldiers find themselves the helpless pawns of bureaucrats and media companies promoting their own agendas. Written and directed by Danis Tanovic, a documentary filmmaker, the movie presents a view of war that's grimly realistic. — S. Holden. (R: scenes of violence and some strong language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A

**"ORANGE COUNTY":** If the comedy "Orange County" is to be believed, everyone in Orange County is either stoned, stupid or both. Shaun, a stoned surfer dude who founded a company that helps the death of a friend. He decides he wants to go to Stanford and be a writer. But stoned or stupid guidance counselor (Lily Tomlin) sends the wrong transcript, and he is denied admission. Dude sets off on odyssey north, stupidly allowing stoned brother (Jack Black) to drive. Stupid-but-sweet girlfriend (Schuyler Fisk) comes along. Soon the dean of admissions is stoned, too. The movie wraps up with Shaun making a decision that can only be described as stupid. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sexual content, language and brief drug references.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. C-

**"PINERO":** Benjamin Bratt resurrects the spirit of Puerto Rican playwright, poet and actor Miguel Pinero. Leon Icho, who directed and wrote the screenplay, has constructed a movie that is more montage than narrative as it flashes back and forth between color and black-and-white and jumps around in time. The screenplay is mercifully free of moralizing, and although Pinero fits the cliché of a charismatic damned poet, the movie's mythmaking machinery doesn't go overboard. Even while depicting Pinero's squandering of his own talent, Bratt's portrayal retains a layer of sinuous craftiness. — S. Holden. (R: drug use, strong language, sexuality.) 1 hour, 43 minutes. B

**"THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS":** There's such an ironic distance to director Wes Anderson's playful, highly stylized movie about a family of failed, alienated geniuses that it's like watching a cinematic version of the eccentric literary quarterly McSweeney's, something exquisitely crafted for maximum cleverness. What saves it from being gag-me precious is the fact that Anderson also has a tender heart to go along with his fetish for detail and eye for the absurd. Amid all the movie's mannerisms are some truths about family that knock you for an unexpectedly emotional loop. All the performances are delightful, but Gene Hackman, as the Tenenbaums' rascal of a patriarch, is unforgettable. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality/nudity and drug content.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. A-

**"THE SHIPPING NEWS":** A pretty but languid and underwhelming version of Annie Proulx's novel, directed by Lasse Hallstrom. Maybe we shouldn't be surprised: "The Shipping News" was a great read, but it lacked many cine-

matic vitals. Quoyile (Kevin Spacey), doing a fine if unexciting job, its plodding protagonist, is hardly a hero. The story is too densely packed, the action too internal, Proulx's humor and poetry on the page too important. You could imagine it making a fine eight-hour series for PBS or HBO, unfolding gradually and sucking you in. Predictably, Hallstrom has made it all about healing. Yawn. — M. Pols. (R: some language, sexuality and disturbing images.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. B-

**"SLACKERS":** So much is wrong with this morose comic comedy. Three friends, Dave (Devon Sawa), Sam (Jason Segel) and Jeff (Michael C. Maronna), lie, cheat and steal to avoid essays, tests and anything else that requires work. When geeky Ethan (Jason Schwartzman) catches them cheating during an exam, he threatens to turn them in if they don't help him snag his dream girl, Angela (James King). But the Ethan character is so psychotically obsessed, it's impossible to muster any sympathy for him, and the schemes of the three slackers are so elaborate and labor-intensive, it probably would have been easier just to study. — C. Lemire. (R: strong language and sexual content, and brief drug use.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. B

**"SNOW DOGS":** Miami dentist Ted Brooks (Cuba Gooding Jr.) finds out he was adopted when his biological mother, who piloted Alaskan sled dogs to championships, dies, and he schleps to the small town of Tokelua to inventory and sell her belongings — including her valuable pack of huskies. A gruff sled-dog racer named Thunder Jack (James Coburn) was one of his mother's chief competitors. He wants those dogs for himself, but Ted

won't let him have them. With the Arctic Challenge coming up, Ted would rather learn to race them himself. "Snow Dogs" is lightweight and predictable, and the dogs are just too cute, along with animatronic counterparts that are so expressive they're spooky. — C. Lemire. (PG: mild crude humor.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. C

**"A WALK TO REMEMBER":** Jamie (pop singer Mandy Moore) and Landon (Shane West) are the unlikely match made in heaven. Landon drives a fast car and hangs with the cool crowd, Jamie totes a Bible and tutors kids in her spare time. For most of its running time, the movie is a sweet love story with a sprinkling of faith. But the film's third act has the kids facing death, albeit with all the conformation of two teens confronting the prospect of spending an entire Saturday with their parents. And, really, a funeral is the last thing this movie needs. — G. Whipp. (PG: mild language, mildly sensual content.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. C

**"WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?":** Taiwanese director Tsai Ming-liang's new film should be rated PN for "patience needed." At times it is so agonizingly uneventful that you may find yourself slipping into a meditative state. There is a payoff as the story wraps back around on itself in an elegant symmetry, but be warned, it's a slow slog to get there. Taipei watch salesman Hsiao Kang's (Lee Kang-shien) father has just died, and his shrunken little mother goes quietly nuts. When he encounters a pretty young customer on her way to Paris, Hsiao Kang develops an obsession and turns every clock he sees to Paris time. Not much else to it, but it's a thoughtful piece. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 56 minutes. B

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## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



# Calendar

YOU PAGE C6

**Arts in the Arlington Community**—52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Arlington Adult School. Attend classes or event you choose. Open to all ages over 55 is welcome. Call 510-449-1449 or 547-1969 for additional information.

**YVCA** offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of programs it offers to the public. For more information, call 848-8370. **Seniors Join Beijing Express**—The Smart Club! Meet and make plans each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Beijing Express Restaurant, 2608 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

**Yoga Meeting:** Stand up and move, you mean. Come practice yoga every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. Call 848-4198 for additional information.

**Yoga Off Sensibly (TOPS)**—Meets every Thursday evening at the Buddhist Church, Richmond, on Contra Costa Ave. below Arlington. Call Betty 525-0490 for more information.

**Yiddish Conversation**—Meets at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for more information. The Berkeley Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Call 834-3765.

**Yoga Arthritis Support and Education** Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium, Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a physical therapist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis. He will be available for questions. For more information call 204-4503.

**Yoga on Campus** meet the first and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the language Program Building, 2151 State St. Details: 704-1822.

**Yoga**—Develops skills and metaphysics through the art of Avatar Metaphysical Masters. On-going meetings first and third Wednesdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at 2151 Hilgass Ave., Call 869-3444 for details.

**Yoga of Healing** is a group exploring psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

**Yoga Toastmasters Club** meets the second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 State St. Details: 649-7750.

**Yoga**—Informative seminars with spiritual partnerships. Meets at the Center, 830 Bancroft Way, 415) 461-5337; 520.

**Yoga Support Groups** - Arthritis Group meets the second Wednesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m. at 2001 Dwight Way. Call for additional information.

**Yoga Anonymous**, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with problems, meets in Berkeley on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers welcome) at St. John's Church, 2151 State St. and in Richmond at 7 p.m. at Kaler 273-2292.

**Yoga**—Mondays: Take a break from the office. Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannard St. at Marin; 415) 461-5337; 520.

**Yoga Rehabilitation Center** and Albany Neurology sponsors a free stroke support group. No additional reservations are required, drop-in. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Maffei Auditorium on Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Call 204-4503.

**Yoga New Ensemble** presents a series of Contemporary American Music at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Road in Berkeley. The program will feature performances of John Swackhamer's settings of Melville and Emerson's "Measure by Herb Bielaiva, Director of the Ensemble. Suggested

donation: \$15 and \$10. Call 524-2912 for more information.

**The Kensington Symphony Orchestra** presents "A Children's Concert," with guest soloist Wayne Organ, percussion. Listen to the music from Prokofiev, "Peter and the Wolf," Copland, "Rodeo," Kubik, "Gerald McBoing Boing," at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. Suggested donation: Adults \$10, seniors \$8, children free. For more information, call 521-2978.

**The Empyrean Ensemble** presents two evenings of concert. The concerts take place 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, in the Varsity Theater, 816 Second St., Davis. The program features soloists Jiebing Chen, erhu, and Beth Wieman, clarinet. The evening includes David Rakowski's "Cerberus," a concerto for B-flat clarinet and chamber orchestra, Yu-Hui Chang's "Amid Haze," a concerto for erhu and chamber orchestra, and a masterwork by Arnold Schoenberg, "Verklarte Nacht for string sextet in D minor," op. 4. Tickets: Berkeley Performance: \$18 general, \$14 students and children. Davis performance: \$12 general, \$8 students and children. For more information, call (530) 752-5537.

**The Prometheus Symphony Orchestra** presents 17-year-old violinist Karla Donehew, a winner of the 14th annual Felix Khuner Concerto Competition at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17, at Zion Lutheran Church, 5201 Park Blvd., in Piedmont. Admission to the concert is free; donations are gratefully accepted. Miss Donehew will perform Mozart's "Concerto #3 in G Major." For more information, call 447-3659.

**Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2640 College Ave., hosts Berkeley Opera's Season Opener "Mozart's Così Fan Tutte," at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, and plays through the weekend. The program repeats March 1, 2 and 3. (Show times: Feb. 22, March 1, 2, at 8 p.m.; Feb. 23, 2 p.m.; Feb. 24, March 3, 7 p.m.). Tickets Adults: \$30; seniors: \$25. For tickets call CBOA ticket line at 925-798-1300. For more information, call 841-1903.

**The contemporary classical group Empyrean Ensemble** presents "Concerto Night," at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. The Empyrean Ensemble consists of five of California's finest musicians performing new American and 20th Century works. The program includes Arnold Schoenberg's "Verklarte Nacht," String Sextet in D Minor; Yu-Hui Chang's "Amid Haze," Concerto for Erhu and Chamber Orchestra; and David Rakowski's "Cerberus," Concerto for B-flat Clarinet and Chamber Orchestra. Tickets: \$14 advance, \$18 at the door. Call CBOA Ticket Line 925-798-1300 for tickets. For more information visit the Web site at [www.juliamorgan.org](http://www.juliamorgan.org).

**Guest conductor Eduardo Lopez Banzo** leads Philharmonic Baroque Orchestra in the premiere of Antonio Lieres' "Spanish Baroque zarzuela 'Jupiter y Semele' at the First Congregational church, at Dana and Durant in Berkeley. Time: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10. Tickets: \$34 to \$49. To order tickets call 415-592-4400 or visit the Web site at [www.philharmonia.org](http://www.philharmonia.org). For more information, call 415-252-1288.

**The Dattaf Singers**, an established East Bay Women's chorus, is seeking new members. No auditions required, just a love of singing. Classical, pop, sacred, Broadway. Rehearsals Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Call Michelle 601-5624, or L.J. 482-1677.

**Duckens Distones**, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isaiah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

**Aashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

**Friday Night Folk Dancing:** 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

**Outdoors**  
Learn to feed and care for orphaned baby birds: house sparrows, starlings



## School jazz bands at Yoshi's

**THE EL CERRITO** High School Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band will both be performing at Yoshi's in Oakland in shows at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11. The Portola Middle School Jazz Band will join them for a special performance during the 8 p.m. show at the East Bay's premiere jazz venue. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show (you may tag your seats). Seating will begin at 9:30 p.m. for the 10 p.m. show. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com) or by calling Donna Houser at 510-234-2251. The club's phone number is 510-238-9200. Yoshi's is located at 510 Embarcadero West, at Jack London Square in Oakland. Proceeds will be used to upgrade musical equipment, make repairs and help enter the bands in jazz competitions.

and pigeons are introduced species that are not afforded care by rehabilitation groups. You can make an important contribution in returning these species to the wild life they deserve to have. Free training and some supplies. Call Myra 531-3042 or Lelia 655-3911.

**Turning Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, offers "Scribble Time," a technique that helps participants understand themselves and to find focus. The group meets on Tuesdays by appointments and is free to YWCA members. Call 848-6370 for additional information, leave a message for Anne Levine.

**East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden Tilden Park**, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-920-1021.

**Support**  
**National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**, (NAMI) East Bay holds its next monthly family support group meeting from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Thursday,

Feb. 14, at the Claremont Branch Berkeley Library. Support meetings are free and offer family members a chance to talk with others who have a mentally ill relative in order to share information and get emotional support. For more information, call NAMI-East Bay at 524-1250.

**Grandparent Support Group** meet every month on the second Thursday. The next meeting is from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 14, at Malcolm X School Arts and Academics School, 1731 Prince St., room 105A. Grandparents, relatives can express their concerns and needs and receive support, information and referrals for Kinship Care. No application, no fee. Facilitator is Marjorie Holloway LCSW. For more information, call Leni Siegel, MX Healthy Start Coordinator at 644-6517.

**Alta Bates Medical Center** presents a free support group for family, friends caring for older adults from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., on the third Wednesday of each month. The session takes place at the Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, third floor, room 3369B (take elevator B). The group will focus on the needs of older adults with seri-

ous medical problems, psychiatric illnesses, such as depression, dementia and/or substance abuse. For more information or if interested in a private consultation, call 802-1725.

**The number of recent tragedies** both locally and across the nation can evoke reactions that can affect us emotionally, physically, in our thoughts and behavior. Alameda County Crisis Support Services offers help through its 24-hour crisis line, grief counseling, education and community debriefing programs. Call 849-2212 for more information.

**A free Yoga for Cancer** class meets every Wednesday from 11:30 to 12:45 p.m. at the Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. The classes are open to both current patients and long-term survivors. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

**Restorative Yoga** class meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in central Berkeley. Cost: \$10 per class. Easy, luxurious stretches and mindful breathing help to ease tension and discomfort and open the body to relaxation and well-being. Call Janet, 891-9560, for directions and more information.

**Adult Survivors of Incest**, a local support group in the east bay is being formed. The group will gather for healing discussions and also various activities, including hiking, dancing, classic film watching, traveling, or any fun activity. Interested participants, call Althea Pecca at 625-1698. Feel free to leave a message.

**The pain and grief** associated with the death of a loved one can often feel overwhelming—especially during the holidays. Many people suffer isolation. The grief counseling project is here to help. No one is turned away for lack of money. Call 889-1104.

**"The Grief Care Community"** offers 8-week bereavement support groups as well as art therapy, grief groups, and individual support. Call 540-0830 for additional information.

**The local self-help group for Berkeley** National Multiple Sclerosis Society meets periodically. Call Toni at 653-4534 for additional information.

**Alta Bates Medical Center Herick Campus** offers a guided relaxation and visualization for people with cancer every Thursday, 5-6 p.m. at its

See CALENDAR, Page C9

## Winter Warm-Up Sale!!!

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CONTEMPORARY EYEWEAR  
1558 Solano 510.526.0862







## Calendar

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**Comprehensive Cancer Center**, first conference room, 2001 Dwight Way, offers this solution to reduce the stress of cancer. The class covers coping with cancer and creating a supportive environment. Call 444-8890 for additional information. 204-1811 for additional information.

**Alta Bates Medical Center**, offers a Bereavement Class every third Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon at the Merrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. The class covers coping with grief and personal grief reactions. Call 444-8890 for additional information. 204-1811 for additional information.

**Alta Bates Medical Center**, 2001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for bereaved families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Merrick Campus. Call 444-8890 for additional information. 204-1811 for additional information.

**Comprehensive Cancer Center**, first conference room, 2001 Dwight Way, offers support group classes for bereaved families and friends on the first Tuesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Merrick Campus. Call 444-8890 for additional information. 204-1811 for additional information.

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lan Universalieta, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. To sign up call 268-4995.

**The YWCA** offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2800 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

**Learn Computer Applications** for the "working" world using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

**"What Is Meditation,"** is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Book Sellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Prigat, Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0961 for additional information. Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

## Theater, Dance & Film

**Learn easy international folk dances**, for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kaine Ave. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2 and \$1 for kids. For more information, call 525-1130.

**Family Folkdancing** takes place on the third Sundays, 12:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultze Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Call 632-3713 for additional information.

**Swing Dance Classes!** Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shattuck Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2568 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays. At the Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

## Classes

**Viola Community College** offers classes in Adventure Travel, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays through May 23. The course covers various kinds of adventure travel: hard adventure, soft adventure, and cultural/spiritual adventure. The curriculum includes adventure travel specialties such as biking, mountaineering, overland trips, safaris, rafting, hiking, small boat and expedition-style cruising, and more. For more information, call 981-2931.

**Albany Adult School** offers classes in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian and Spanish this quarter. Most classes meet in the evening once a week for 10 weeks. A few are offered in the afternoon also. Meet at 601 San Gabriel Ave. in Albany, or across the street at the Albany Middle School. Average cost is \$48 plus books. Call the Adult School at 559-6580 for more information.

**Folkdance classes**, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library). Simple and clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (prorated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session.

For more information, call Mel Harris, at 848-5288 before 9 p.m.

**Viola Community College**, 2020 Milvia St., offers its new Sunrise College the spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals. Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

**Assets Senior Employment** offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Class starts soon. Call 238-3554 for more information.

**The Albany YMCA** offers after school classes for elementary and middle school age children. The YMCA offers sports and dance programs, gymnastics and Hip Hop and enrichment programs such as cooking, sewing and art. Financial assistance always available. For more information, call 525-1130.

**Julia Morgan Center for the Arts**, 2840 College Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, see www.juliamorgan.org or call 845-8542 for a brochure.

**The Berkeley Adult School (BAS)** offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from Introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Call 644-6130 for additional information.

**The South Berkeley Senior Center**, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes. For additional information and class scheduling, call 883-5222.

**Interview Clinics** sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Center at 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Be sure to leave a name and telephone number.

**Turning Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment. The class is free to YWCA members. This technique is designed to help individuals understand themselves better. Call 848-6370 for additional information. Leave a message for Anne Levine.

**The Ecology Center**, 2530 San Pablo Ave., presents an introductory class for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. There will also be a demonstration of various pruning tools. The class is taught by Greg Peck, owner of an organic land-

scape and garden design business in the East Bay. Cost is \$10 for non-members; \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

**The van der Zanden Studio**, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information.

**A CopWatch** class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

**Berkeley Community Media (BCM)**, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick John or Sage.

**Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarjani Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

**Life Stories/College and Ceramics** classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

**Contemporary Women's Issues** class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

**Dance and Fitness Classes** open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

**Let's Swing and Jitterbug**, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut; Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

## Volunteers

**Berkeley Neighborhood Computers**, a non-profit community organization, seeks volunteers to recycle, rebuild, and redistribute computer technology for families and schools. Volunteers are needed to be administrative coordinators, computer pick up and create efficient and effective systems for recording data and use of space, answer phone calls, log calls, route information and provide filing, organization, and other assistance. Call Mike at 845-1226 for more information.

**Volunteers** are needed to assemble and wrap beautiful sacred Tibetan books and prepare sacred texts for prayer wheels. Help fund-raise to distribute these treasures to Tibetans in exile. Call 800-338-4238 for more information and location.

**Crisis Support Services** of Alameda County needs volunteers to maintain its 24-hour crisis line. Make the difference between hope and despair for a person in need. No prior experience required, excellent training provided. Do something to help your community. Call 848-1515 for more information.

**Tibetan Aid Project** seeks volunteers to help preserve the ancient wisdom of Tibet. Assemble and wrap beautiful sacred Tibetan books. Prepare sacred texts for prayer wheels. Or help fund-raise to distribute these treasures to Tibetans in exile. For location and more information, call 800-338-4238.

**Alta Bates Summit Medical Center**, 2001 Dwight Way, seeks volunteers for its Tele-Care program. Volunteers provide friendly, caring check-up calls on a daily basis to seniors, convalescents, and others who are homebound. Volunteers pick the days they would like to call and use phones at Alta Bates. For more information call Sabra, 204-4487, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**PediatricCare** provides on-going support groups for families coping with illness, grief or loss within the family. Groups meet weekly evenings in Oakland and Walnut Creek. Fees are on a sliding scale. Call PediatricCare at 531-7551 for more information.

**The Alcohol Research Group (ARG)** is conducting a study, funded by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The goal of the study is to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. The study is at the SMART Project. Interested parties may call 1-888-249-8802 for more information.

**The Crisis Support Services** of Alameda County needs volunteers to provide telephone crisis intervention. The agency needs motivated committed people to serve its 24-hour crisis lines. No prior experience required. Excellent training provided. Call 848-1515 for more information.

**Volunteers** are needed at the Alameda County Community Food Bank to staff emergency food referral service, the Hunger Hotline. Shifts are available on Monday and Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Call volunteer coordinator Mary Schoen at 834-FOOD for more information and a current volunteer newsletter.

**Contra Costa County Volunteers** in Probation are continually seeking dependable volunteers. 21 years plus with good credit and clean record on probation. Training will be provided and screening of all applicants is required by the Probation Department. If you are interested, call Kat Thompson, Director of Volunteers in Probation 925-313-4187 or email kmath-

hompson@hotmail.co

**The City of Albany Recreation and Community Services Department** is seeking experienced fitness instructors in many areas of exercise and training, including Tiny tot tumbling, rompermy, aerobics, youth dance adult aerobics and yoga. If you have experience and have taught contact Recreation supervisor, John Medlock at 524-9283 or come by the Albany Community center at 1249 Marin Avenue for an instructor application.

**UC Botanical Garden** is looking for volunteers who are interested in plants and who would like to learn how to give tours of the Garden. Knowledge of plants is useful, but not required, and prior teaching experience is also helpful, but not essential. Principal qualifications are to like plants and to enjoy people. The training teaches about the Garden and how to lead tours. Call 843-1924 for more information and an application.

**The Richmond Public Library** seeks Internet Docents to teach internet skills and to provide hands-on assistance to library patrons. Volunteers are needed for the main library Adult Department, the Children's Department, and the Bayview or West Side branch libraries. Volunteers agree to work with the public for at least one three-hour slot per week for a three month period. Solid internet skills, including knowledge of Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the ability to use two search engines well are required. Applications are available at the information desk at the main library or at the two branches. For more information call 620-6561.

**Women's Daytime Drop-in** in Berkeley needs volunteers. The center serves women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Hours 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 548-6933.

**Volunteers needed** at Good Stuff Thrift Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly place to work; all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

**Women's Cancer Resource Center**, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

**Volunteer at the Crucible**, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an edu-

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# THE DINING GUIDE

## La RUE

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Hoping to be discovered from start to finish, Berkeley's La RUE makes diners feel comfortable and relaxed.

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**Legend:** \$ rating is average dinner entrée price

AE.....American Express	S.....Entrees under \$7
CB.....Carte Blanche	\$S.....\$7-\$14
DC.....Diners Club	\$\$\$.....\$15-\$2
DS.....Discover Card	\$\$\$\$.....\$20+
MC.....MasterCard	
VS.....Visa	FB.....Full Bar
AC.....All Cards accepted	RR.....Reservations recommended
CA.....Checks accepted	W.....Wheelchair access

**La Rue Brasserie & Bistro**  
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La Rue makes diners feel comfortable and relaxed. Offers excellent cuisine and service. Call for your Reservation for Valentine's Day.  
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**Pasta Pelican**  
2433 Mariner Sq. Drive, Alameda (510) 564-7427  
For the past four years, Pasta Pelican Restaurant has been delighting its guests with a variety of unique dishes. Their extensive menu offers veal, steak, seafood, chicken, classic pastas, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. Guests are raving about this waterfront restaurant for their famous fresh baked bread, fried calamari, homemade clam chowder, variety of salads, attentive, friendly service, and inviting atmosphere. All this for what is considered to be one of the best values in the Bay Area. Formerly the Rusty Pelican, the restaurant is located in Alameda, behind the Webster Tube, with a spectacular view of Jack London Square and the Oakland Hills. You will truly enjoy this fine dining experience. Parking and docking are free. For reservations, please call (510) 884-7427.

**El Caballo**  
Harbor Bay Landing, Alameda (510) 321-4032  
Has been a family owned business since 1978. All of our food is prepared with only cholesterol-free oils, without any animal fat or MSG. Everything is prepared using the freshest produce, fish, poultry, meats and cheese available. We specialize in Mexican and seafood cuisine such as Paello, Cioppino, calamari, provincial and others.

**Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant**  
300 • 29th Avenue, Oakland (510) 261-1621  
Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, turkey ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Bar Hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

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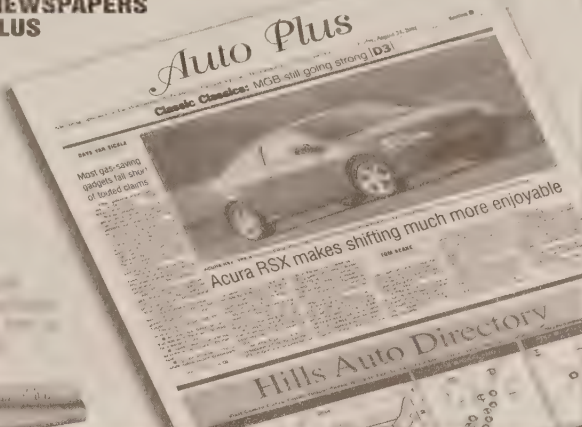
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## Calendar

FROM PAGE C9

cational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@ups.net for more information on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

**Breast Cancer Action**, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301 for additional information.

**Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center** needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to

volunteer should call 468-5663 or 548-6933.

**Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services** Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

**La Pena Cultural Center** needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two programs per month. Call Kahili 849-2568, ext. 11 for more information.

**The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program** is currently

accepting volunteer court appointed special advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers are the court to advocate the best interests of abused/neglected children. Alameda County requires an application and a 268-7297. No previous experience required. Volunteers must be 14 and up.

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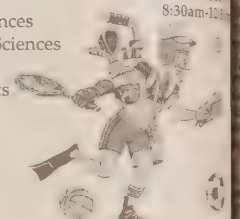


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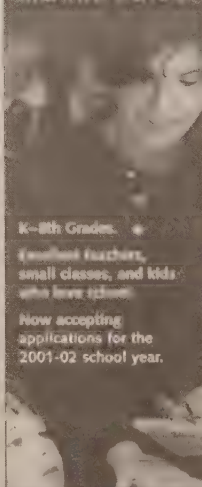
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# Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, February 8, 2002

Section D

## Generation Gap: Buick Century Limited holds market share [D5]

**Auto museums we've missed**  
PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

Some years ago, I took a grand tour to see as many auto museums as I could in two weeks. Unfortunately, I didn't get to many of them. Within a year or two, I plan to do it again. I've surfed the Web and come up with a few to add to my list.

### National Corvette Museum

Corvette enthusiasts refer to the museum as the first and only real American sports car and there's no denying it's been around a long time.

So it's little wonder that it is regarded in the National Corvette Museum located in Bowling Green, Ky. It's very well put together and more than being a static display of sports cars, it has a hall of fame (originators, race drivers, designers, etc.), a merchandise store, membership programs, links to local Corvette clubs, Corvette-oriented accessories and, of course, its line of Corvette-logged clothing.

There also has a program whereby visitors can take delivery of their own Corvette at the museum with the associated pomp and ceremony. This being the 50th anniversary of the development of the Corvette, there will be a huge party at the museum to celebrate the event.

There's more to the place than just a room for and if you need

See HAGIN, Page D2



TOYOTA believes there is still a small market for personal luxury coupes and convertibles, hence its Solara Convertible for 2002 that comes in three models with four-cylinder or V-6 engines.

## Toyota Solara SLE complements best-selling Camry line

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

The Toyota Camry Solara appeared in late 1998 as a replacement to the two-door Camry SE.

Soon after, custom automotive fabricator American Sunroof Company (ASC) sliced off the roof and added a power soft top to make the Solara Convertible.

Available in SE four-cylinder, SE V-6 and as our tester for this week, the top-line SLE V-6, Solara Convertible is an excellent complement to Toyota's best-selling Camry line.

**Outside:** Toyota believes that there is still a market, albeit a small

one, for personal luxury coupes and convertibles.

Several automakers recently discontinued their versions, but the market says that many Baby Boomers continue to wax nostalgic for big, long-hooded sporty cars, but, in Toyota's case, aren't ready to abandon practicality.

Solara's styling is unique. With its strong character lines and a wide, aggressive rear end, it's more expressive than a Camry.

The nose is pointed and somewhat similar to its competitors, but its forward-raked tail with a small

**TOM HAGIN**  
Solo Road Test

rear spoiler displays character.

For 2002, exterior changes such as a new grille, front and rear fascias, fog lamps and four-bulb headlamps have freshened the 3-year-old design.

Also, new wheel covers for the SE model and revised alloy wheels for the SLE further enhance its style.

Body fit and finish, with perfectly uniform panel gaps and impeccable paint, follow the Toyota tradi-

tion. The lines of the Solara stream along its sides then melt into polished curves while along its flanks, two character lines break its vertical plane.

The door handles, body moldings, outside mirrors and rear mudguards are all body-color.

The power-folding top with a large glass rear window are insulated and the rear window also comes with a timed defogger. And at nearly 9 cubic feet, trunk space is ample.

**Inside:** Solara feels different from the Camry from the moment

you sit in the driver's seat. The dual front bucket seats offer good lumbar and thigh support, while optional dual side airbags are neatly tucked into the outboard sides of the front seats.

The dashboard is cockpit-style and flows into the door panels, which are accented by a strip of tasteful faux wood trim.

New for 2002 are unique upholstery fabric and lighter grain wood trim that has now been applied to the surround of the gearshift stalk.

See SOLO, Page D2

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## Hagin

FROM PAGE D1

more information, check out Web site at [www.corvettemuseum.com](http://www.corvettemuseum.com).

## Towe Auto Museum

Since it's the one that's closest to my Concord home, I should really check out the Towe Auto Museum first. The museum is located in Sacramento, and was promoted as having the world's most complete collection of Fords.

Edward Towe himself lives in Montana and his private collection seeded the museum that bears his name but he has since withdrawn from participation. Besides housing the plethora of various cars, the museum provides a pleasant atmosphere for dinner meetings and dances for local organizations which are usually car clubs, I'm told.

It also shows a series of vintage movies that don't make it to television. Its mission "... is to be the center of automotive activity in the community by preserving, promoting and teaching automotive culture its influence on our lives," according to its brochure. Internet access to the museum is [www.toweautomuseum.org](http://www.toweautomuseum.org) or by calling 916-442-6802 for information.

## National Automobile Museum

It used to be the Harrah museum, a Reno institution that showcased literally thousands of fully restored autos, airplanes and rail cars of every size, shape and species. Harrah died in '78 without leaving a will, so before



PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

## CLASSIC CORVETTE is found in the National Corvette Museum.

the tax guys were able to sell it off piecemeal, a group of high-powered enthusiasts got together and strong-armed a non-profit museum into place.

It displays about 220 vehicles, many of them on loan from collectors. It, too, has a merchandise store that sells books, T-shirts and all kinds of other stuff to help keep the place afloat.

Inexpensive memberships get the card holder into the place free for a year and businesses can become members which allows them special privileges, too.

It has an ongoing theater that chronicles the automobile, and a research library that is university quality.

The Web site, [www.automuseum.org](http://www.automuseum.org), shows a picture of the new building and although it's awesome and sleek, I miss the funky warehouses which were its home when I saw it several decades ago.

## Star Cars Museum

If I ever get even remotely close to Gatlinburg, Tenn., I'm going to stop in at the Star Cars Museum. The Web

site states that it holds more than 30 vehicles that have starred in Hollywood movies.

They're as diverse as the '59 Cadillac ambulance that was in "Ghostbusters" to the Batmobile studio car from "Batman Returns" to Herbie the Volkswagen from "Love Bug." Being a fan of the old Andy Griffith show, I was delighted to see Andy's old Ford sedan that was his squad car along with Barney's motorcycle.

The museum is part of the Gatlinburg Attractions Association and you can view it on [www.starcars.com](http://www.starcars.com). The first thing I'll ask when I get there is how old movie cars got into a museum in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

## National Packard Museum

At one time I owned a couple of big Packards from the '30s and foolishly almost gave them away. The Packard museum is in Warren, Ohio, which is billed as the birthplace of the marque.

If you know Packards and pull up [www.packardmuseum.org](http://www.packardmuseum.org) you'll recognize the facade in front of the place

as a huge replica of the tombstone radiator grille of a Packard, circa the late '20s.

The museum has the usual merchandise store and sponsoring memberships as well as links to the Packard owner's clubs and their regions.

For the edification of you "kids," the pre-World War II senior-series Packards were among the most prestigious in America, if not the world. Its motto was to the point. "Ask the man who owns one."

## Rolls-Royce Foundation

Since we included the Packard museum, we're duty-bound to include Rolls-Royce. This foundation is located in Lewisberry, Pa., and it's only open by appointment.

It has membership (only \$25) and merchandise, of course, but I didn't see any Rolls-Royce T-shirts or baseball caps.

The display floor as seen on [www.rollsroycefoundation.com](http://www.rollsroycefoundation.com) shows a plethora of Rolls-Royce cars including a couple of Springfield models that were manufactured here in the company's American plant in the '20s.

Also featured are Bentley cars, a marque that was often a Rolls with a slightly different grille. I wonder how the museum curators feel about both Rolls-Royce and Bentley being now owned by German automakers.

Needless to say, there are auto museums, big and small, in almost every country, my favorite being the funky one in Killarney, Ireland.

Motor-car enthusiasm is a worldwide affliction and if travelers speak "auto," they can find kindred spirits in all corners of the globe.

sive thump and little or no cowl shake.

The steering is progressive and communicative, more so than that of a Camry, and it's a bit sharper and quick enough to keep up with rapid direction changes.

Four-wheel disc brakes are standard issue on the SLE (optional on the lower level SE), providing powerful, well-controlled stops from high speed.

Mild pedal pump, accompanied by typical anti-lock brake system rattling sounds, let you know the ABS system is working.

**Safety:** Dual dashboard airbags, ABS, front seat belt pre-tensioners and side-impact door beams are standard; dual side-impact airbags and traction control are optional.

**Options:** Side-impact airbags, \$250; carpet/cargo mat set, \$179.

## TOYOTA SOLARA SLE CONVERTIBLE

Suggested Retail \$30,525

Price as Tested

Engine Type

Engine Size

Horsepower

Torque

Transmission

Curb Weight

Fuel Capacity

Tires

Brakes

Drive Train

Vehicle Type

Mileage

0-60 mph

\*Sequential multi-port fuel injection

DOHC 24-valve 3.0-liter V-6 w/SMFI

133 cid/2995cc

198 @ 5,300 rpm

212 @ 4,400 rpm

Four-speed automatic

3,515 pounds

18.5 gallons

(F/R) P205/60R16

(F/R) Disc (ABS)/disc (ABS)

Front-engine/front-wheel-drive

Four-passenger/two-door

City/highway 19/26

8.5 seconds

## Solo

FROM PAGE D1

Also new are optional heated seats, which will no doubt come in handy for cool weather, top-down motoring.

Opening the long, heavy doors can be a chore for some, but the extra length gives easier access to the rear seat, which offers exceptional leg room, as long as the front passengers aren't in the full aft position.

The rear seat gives adequate lumbar support, but seemed to be raked too far forward for truly comfortable long-distance trips.

The deep center console, sizable glove box and oversized door map pockets add to the car's utility. There's even a small pullout tray in the center stack to hold toll and parking coins.

The dash is populated by a legible, well-lit cluster of three gauges, with the speedometer in the center, tachometer to the left and the fuel gauge and water temperature on the right.

The stereo buttons are big and easy to find with minimal distraction, and the automatic climate control system of the SLE model is easy enough to use, but it could use larger buttons.

We didn't like the fact that the convertible top button, located deep in the center console ahead of the shifter, was hard to access.

The SLE model's standard leather is supple and perfectly tailored, and is applied tastefully to the steering wheel and shift knob. Adding to its

utility, the rear seat folds flat to expand the trunk.

Folding the top is a fairly simple process of unlocking a couple of latches and pressing the button. Once in its well, there is a boot cover that takes some practice to install quickly but looks great when it's in place.

**On the Road:** Solara is powered by a 3.0-liter dual overhead-cam V-6 engine. It produces 198 horsepower and 212 pound-feet of torque.

The base SE model uses a new, 157-horsepower four-cylinder unit which replaces the previous 132-horsepower version.

From a standing start, Solara V-6 automatic manages 0-60 mph acceleration runs in the low seven-second range, while its silky-smooth performance and good off-line torque are far superior to any in its class.

Full steam in the Solara comes in short order, and with its strong torque rating, the V-6 delivers a steady flow of acceleration. Power, however, is noticeably reduced in the mid-rpm range, where it quickly loses steam.

During idle, the driver feels almost no vibration through the steering wheel, seats or floorboard, and the only hint the car is running comes as a faint resonance in the gas pedal. Pick up steam and that silky smooth quality remains.

The four-speed automatic, which most Solara buyers will choose, takes full advantage of that power. Downshifts are as immediate as a jab at the gas pedal, and passing maneuvers are a breeze.

**Behind the Wheel:** Solara is built on the same 105-inch wheelbase as

the Camry, although the ASC-modified chassis features structural reinforcements to assist in eliminating twist.

Its basic handling characteristics exhibit understeer, which is true for many front-wheel drive cars, even those without high-performance intentions.

It has ample body roll, or lean through the corners, but it's no sports car. Considerable squat under brisk acceleration and abundant nose-dive during hard braking is another unpleasant trait, but can be rectified with aftermarket upgrades.

On the highway, Solara felt like a large car, floating over highway expansion joints and providing occupants a soft and supple ride.

Fortunately, the extra bracing added by ASC allows its driver to cross railroad tracks with a respon-

sive thump and little or no cowl shake.

The steering is progressive and communicative, more so than that of a Camry, and it's a bit sharper and quick enough to keep up with rapid direction changes.

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**Options:** Side-impact airbags, \$250; carpet/cargo mat set, \$179.

## Owner can't find tire chains for TrailBlazer

PACHECO AUTOMOTIVE NEWS SERVICE

**Q** My daughter lives in Florida and recently bought a new Chevrolet 2002 TrailBlazer with two-wheel drive. She is now planning on going to North Carolina to go skiing.

The hotel's owner told her that she needs to have chains to get to their lodging.

However, here comes the problem. In checking with the Chevrolet dealers in Florida and Washington as well as on the Internet, we found that the Chevrolet TrailBlazer cannot be fitted with chains.

**R.S. Shoreline, Wash.**  
**A** Don't always put your faith only in the vehicle maker. I called my local aftermarket parts house and came up with tire chains for your daughter's TrailBlazer made by the Security Chain Company.

The catalog lists three different tire sizes for her TrailBlazer but two chain sizes fit them all.

They're cleverly listed as large and small so all she has to do is tell the person behind the counter what size tire her vehicle has and they should be able to fix her up.

**Q** I want to ask you about the Sterling. I'm contemplating getting a 1988 Model 825 which has 73,000 miles on it.

My biggest concern is that they no longer make Sterlings, so would it be possible to get parts in the event work was needed?

And what kind of reputation did the Sterling have during its limited production? And why did the car go out of production? Was it a British Leyland or an English version of the Honda?

**S.D. Concord, Calif.**

**A** The Sterling was a product of a joint effort between Austin Rover of England and Honda of Japan to make Acura Legends in England for sale in Europe.

The car, a four-door sedan, started out with a 2.5-liter V-6 engine in 1987. It acquired a bigger 2.7-liter engine in 1990 but in August of 1991 Austin Rover announced that it was no longer going to be imported into the U.S. market.

Rover supplied the bodies while Honda provided the running gear.

## BOB HAGIN

Questions and Answers

Early in 1990 I achieved the dubious honor of offering the largest five rebate of all time. My pany was disappointing maintaining '89 cars a \$6,000.

When they suffered a loss this was ironic. Our cars had a reputation for electrical equipment. I call, the Sterling of British electrical equipment.

The Sterling never very big numbers. I think of a rarity item shops that specialize in should have little trouble finding the car because it developed a supply over the years.

But you should be in mind that they're orphan car.

**Q** I have an '84 Buick. The problem with Buicks is that they have no controls inside of the Buick.

Where I can get an original for such an old car runs great.

**A** Finding odd-ball cars times requires a lot of detective work and effort on your request. It's easier to find an original for a '31 Model A than for your BMW.

Call all the dealers in your area, ask if they have a car like yours, and owner's manual is worth for sale.

Another source is out-of-print manuals for European Automotive and Cranston, R.I., at 1-800-688-2. They list one BMW at \$50. I found the Internet.

Hemmings Motor Club of America at 1-800-456-7878-9292. Sometimes a hook you up with mental have hard-to-get items where to find them.

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# Consumers praise, criticize new, brighter headlights

**BY HEATHER LOURIE**  
**CONCORD, N.H.**  
 When you get those lights beaming at you, it's like that scene from "The Matrix" where Keanu Reeves' character is hit by a truck. You can't see the truck, but you can see the headlights. "It's so bright, it hurts your eyes," said a driver who was on the road. "When you get those lights beaming at you, it's like that scene from 'The Matrix' where Keanu Reeves' character is hit by a truck. You can't see the truck, but you can see the headlights. "It's so bright, it hurts your eyes," said a driver who was on the road.

from high levels of glare." Said California Highway Patrol officer Mark Reeves: "It has the potential to interfere with oncoming traffic and cause an accident if they are temporarily blinded. People think drivers have their high beams on." Researchers from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., are studying whether the lights disable drivers more than just aggravate them. Although the intense lights are legal and meet existing federal regulations, the increased light output "may cause them to produce more glare," according to Rensselaer researchers. "This is one of those things that is a trade-off," said Jack Schwenninger, a California Highway Patrol automobile engineer. "You have to give people enough illumination to drive, without creating too much glare for oncoming motorists." Mineta's inquiry, being conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, could lead to a change in federal regulations for headlights that have been in place since 1968. First introduced in the United States in the mid-1990s on Lincoln's Mark VIII, the headlights are now standard on many luxury cars, in-

cluding the Infiniti QX4 and Mercedes-Benz CL coupes. Still, only about 5 percent of new-car buyers have the lights, according to a recent survey by J.D. Power and Associates. "It's improved night vision, and that's a safety benefit," said Kate Cleveland, a spokeswoman for Osram Sylvania, the largest supplier of automotive lighting in North America. "It just puts so much light on the road, in the right places, you'll never want to go back." Some of the negative reaction to the HID's could be because they are new, experts said. When halogens were introduced in 1979, engineers heard similar complaints. "They appear different because the color is not the same," said David Van Sickle, a AAA foundation engineer based in Washington, D.C. "And some drivers tend to look at them when they shouldn't." The HID's emit a bluish white light when an electrical arc is created between two electrodes. Halogens, however, create a yellowish glow after a tungsten filament is heated. Both systems operate off a car's battery. Automakers and lighting manufacturers are banking on the HID's for increased safety. The lights provide a wider, more intense beam,

which allows drivers to see farther at night. The lights also increase peripheral visibility. "I really see it becoming ubiquitous across the industry in a few years," said Fred Heiler, a spokesman for Mercedes-Benz, which began offering the lights in fall 1995 and now has them as standard equipment on several models. "They give you an extra margin of safety." For car enthusiasts, look is a major selling point too. A significant number of customers who bought the Jaguar X-Type sports sedan said they liked the visual appeal, said James Thomas, a company spokesman. "They certainly look cool," he said. "Many younger drivers are fitting their tuned cars with these types of headlights just for the street appeal they give a car." Other factors contributing to motorists' complaints about headlight glare are an increase of sport-utility vehicles — equipped with headlights at eye level for people driving a sedan — and illegal after-market lighting parts, Van Sickle said. Those protests, experts believe, are also being fueled by an aging population and illegal after-market bulbs, Van Sickle said. But the public's comments on

the federal report have focused on the HID lights. "We feel a heavy responsibility to do everything that is possible to make our cars as safe as possible, and that includes lighting," said Heiler, at Mercedes-Benz. "We've made them, frankly, as bright as the law will allow."

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# Pontiac makes Montana Thunder a fancy minivan for upscale families

**Brendan:** Pontiac says life is better in a Montana. And starting at about \$42,000 for its Thunder-packaged equipped people mover, it should be more plush than the average family minivan.

It comes standard with a 3.4 liter V-6, the only engine available in the Montana, but with 210 pound-feet of torque and 185 horsepower, it's enough to move the Montana along almost effortlessly, although if a few 300-pound NFL offensive linemen were inside, it may bog down a bit.

It also features a four-speed, electronically controlled automatic transmission, so if those linemen were still inside when a steep hill was on the horizon, the Montana would adjust itself accordingly.

**Mikele:** My dad loves the Pontiac Muscle Cars of the old days as well as the current Trans Am models, but he always said he would not drive a minivan.

But as he gets older he might like vehicles such as the Montana Thunder.

It has a bundle of options that make it among the coolest in the minivan genre.

Versatrak all-wheel-drive and a special ride and handling package give it a plethora of goodies that he would approve of, and automatic level control makes it an almost all-terrain vehicle.

Imagine those cowboys in the Pontiac commercials find it hard to look tough and mean in a minivan but they give it a good try.

## BRENDAN/MIKELE HAGIN Gender Gap

The press pack touts the fact that it has fully independent MacPherson front struts and an independent rear system as standard equipment. That's good stuff, but very common on most of today's family vehicles.

**Brendan:** Inside, the Montana Thunder is packed with features like front two-tone leather heated seats, which work great for the recent cold spell around our area, and the On-Star system with a one-year safety and security contract.

Of course, it has all the regular items you've grown to expect in a minivan like cruise control, air conditioning in front and rear, power door locks, and power windows.

But it also throws in an optional universal garage door opener, a theft-deterrent system and a rear cargo area convenience net to keep stuff from flying around.

The optional dual-power sliding doors would be ideal for a busy family, and I'm sure they'll be standard on all brands of minivans in the near future.

They're much more practical than traditional swinging doors, and being electrically operated it's a godsend for grocery shopping and picking up the kids from their band recitals.

**Mikele:** One of the interesting things about the Montana Thunder

is its flexibility. Its floor-storable third row seat is something I've seen in only one other manufacturer's van models, but by now there may be other companies applying it, too.

It creates more cargo room and makes it easier to stow the third-row seat. It avoids the painful routine of unlocking a latch and then having to physically wrestle the seat out of the vehicle.

The Montana Thunder's look isn't the most appealing design I've ever seen, but with 16-inch polished aluminum wheels equipped with P225/60R16 all-season tires, a rear spoiler and a luggage rack, the Montana more than makes up for its lack of uniqueness with lots of amenities.

It also offers power-operated outside door mirrors which have a fold-and-stow feature. It has special Thunder badging, but I could do without the fake twin scoops on the hood.

**Brendan:** In a family vehicle like the Montana, you would expect it to have lots of safety items as standard features.

It has both driver and front passenger air bags, daytime running lamps with automatic lamp control, and lower anchors and top tethers for child safety seats.

Child security door locks on the sliding doors are a bonus, because with such large doors next to them, kids are bound to want to try to open them.

**Mikele:** I think the Montana Thunder is quite cool-looking, and



PONTIAC has outfitted its Montana Thunder minivan with amenities that make up for its lack of exciting design and given it an engine that can tow up to 3,500 pounds.

it seems like it could be considered the General Motors' hot-rod version of a people mover, but it isn't in the same league with my dad's first car, a '65 Pontiac GTO.

It ruled our hometown streets back in the mid-'60s, and made the other muscle cars he raced back then seem like they were standing still.

**Brendan:** How do you know? You weren't even born then.

**Mikele:** Fathers are honest. He would never fib to his only daughter, would he?

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Transmission	.....	4.485 gals.
Curb Weight	.....	25 cu ft
Fuel Capacity	.....	(F/R) P225/60R16 all-season
Tires	.....	(F/R) Disc (ABS) disc
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Drive Train	.....	Seven-passenger seating
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# Detroit concepts that will see showroom floors

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH  
KIN GAT RIDDER/TIMBER BUSINESS NEWS

**DETROIT** — Meet Petunia, arguably the star of the North American International Auto Show. "Petunia" was the internal name for the Ford GT40 project during its three-year, top-secret development.

Why Petunia?  
"Because we figured if people heard we were working on a project called 'Petunia,' it would sound so boring — like a smog-free electric car or something — that nobody would be asking questions about it," said John Coletti, head engineer for the Ford special vehicle team.

Racing fans likely know that the GT40 was Ford's legendary sports car from the 1960s. In 1963, Henry Ford II was in negotiations to join forces with, and possibly even purchase, Ferrari. But Enzo Ferrari backed out of the deal, annoying Ford to the point where he decided to hit Ferrari where it hurt — build a sports car, take it to the 24 Hours of LeMans endurance race and win.

Easier said than done. But Ford did it anyway. In 1966, GT40s finished first, second and third in the world's most prestigious test of speed and endurance.

The handful of GT40s that ended up with private owners are among the most collectible American-made cars of our time. So as Ford approaches the 100th anniversary of its involvement in racing, the company built a brand-new GT40.

Will they build it to sell? Maybe. But with Ford's well-publicized financial troubles, many in the company may find it difficult to justify production of such a niche vehicle.

Others think that Ford's woes make this the perfect time for the GT40. "If we've ever needed a car to rally the troops around," says one Ford executive, "it's now."

Actually, the new GT40 was designed with production in mind. The engine is a surprisingly simple 5.4-liter V-8, basically a version of the Ford Lightning's truck engine, complete with the Lightning's supercharger. Still, it pumps out 500 horsepower — plenty for a car like this.

How many customers could pay maybe \$100,000 for a new GT40? Probably not a lot. But if Ford used the GT40 the way Dodge uses the Viper — to help build a halo around the dealership — it would be worth the investment.

That said, the Detroit auto show had plenty of other interesting products that are either scheduled for production or contemplated. Here's a quick rundown on some of the highlights:

**GENERAL MOTORS:** The most popular vehicle at the GM stand was the Pontiac Solstice, shown in both convertible and coupe versions. It is the personal project of Bob Lutz, the mercurial executive hired last year to help GM reconnect with its customers, the way Lutz did at Chrysler during the 1990s.

The Solstice could be a genuine Mazda Miata-fighter, and chances for production are pretty good.

Less likely to see production is the Cadillac Cien, a V-12-powered supercar; after all, Cadillac already has a two-seat roadster, the XLR, coming for next year.

Also, the Chevrolet Bel Air was an irrelevant little convertible that looked like a last-minute answer to the new Ford Thunderbird. Chevy can do better.

**DAIMLERCHRYSLER:** Almost overlooked was one of the most important production vehicles announced at Detroit: The Dodge SRT-10, a short-bed, full-sized pickup truck that will have the Viper's all-aluminum V-10 engine.

It will certainly be the most powerful pickup truck ever mass-produced, with the huge 8.3-liter, 500-horsepower engine. It also happens to look absolutely sinister.

Also a hit: The Chrysler Razor, a small sports car developed in partnership with, and named after, Razor, the company that builds those small chrome-plated scoot-

ers. Think Audi TT, and you get the Razor's concept.

Chrysler also announced weeks ago that it would build the Crossfire, a two-seater that debuted at the show a year ago, ostensibly to replace the departing Prowler in the specialty lineup.

The biggest production news at Chrysler was the Pacifica, which resembles the BMW X5 sport-ute but is more docile and station-wagon-like, and certainly cheaper.

**FORD:** Aside from the GT40, Ford's most notable vehicle was the Mighty F-350 Tonka, a life-sized Tonka toy truck that, the company insists, closely resembles the next-generation F-series, which is the best-selling vehicle in the country.

If that's true, Ford will take the F-150 in a bold direction when it's re-designed, likely for 2004. The truck had a sophisticated 6.0-liter, 32-valve turbocharged V-8 diesel engine, a version of which will see production sooner rather than later.

**SUBARU:** The company hasn't built anything resembling a truck since the Brat, but that changes with the 2003 Baja, a weird-looking vehicle based on the Legacy platform that has more plastic body side

cladding than any Pontiac in memory. Like every Subaru, it will be all-wheel-drive.

**HONDA:** Honda announced that it will build both the Pilot, a large sport-ute, and the Model X, a smaller box-shaped vehicle that is sort of a sport-ute, targeted at "active lifestyles" kids. A hint: You can rinse out the interior with a hose.

**VOLVO:** The company calls the 2003 XC90 its first sport-ute, but it is built on a Volvo car platform, powered by existing engines. Volvo certainly knows boxy designs and all-wheel-drive, and the XC90 is expected to be a hit when it arrives in October.

**SAAB:** The plucky Swedish company, now controlled by General Motors, offered up a couple of interesting concepts, including a smaller hatchback called the 9-3X that reportedly pointed the direction toward the 2003 9-3, due later this year.

**TOYOTA:** Toyota's news was the 2003 Corolla, which is bigger, better and more expensive than the current car. The company also displayed the CCX, just one more wagon-looking concept.

**MAZDA:** The long-awaited RX-8 sports car is finally due next year, complete with rotary engine. Due sooner is the 6, a hand-

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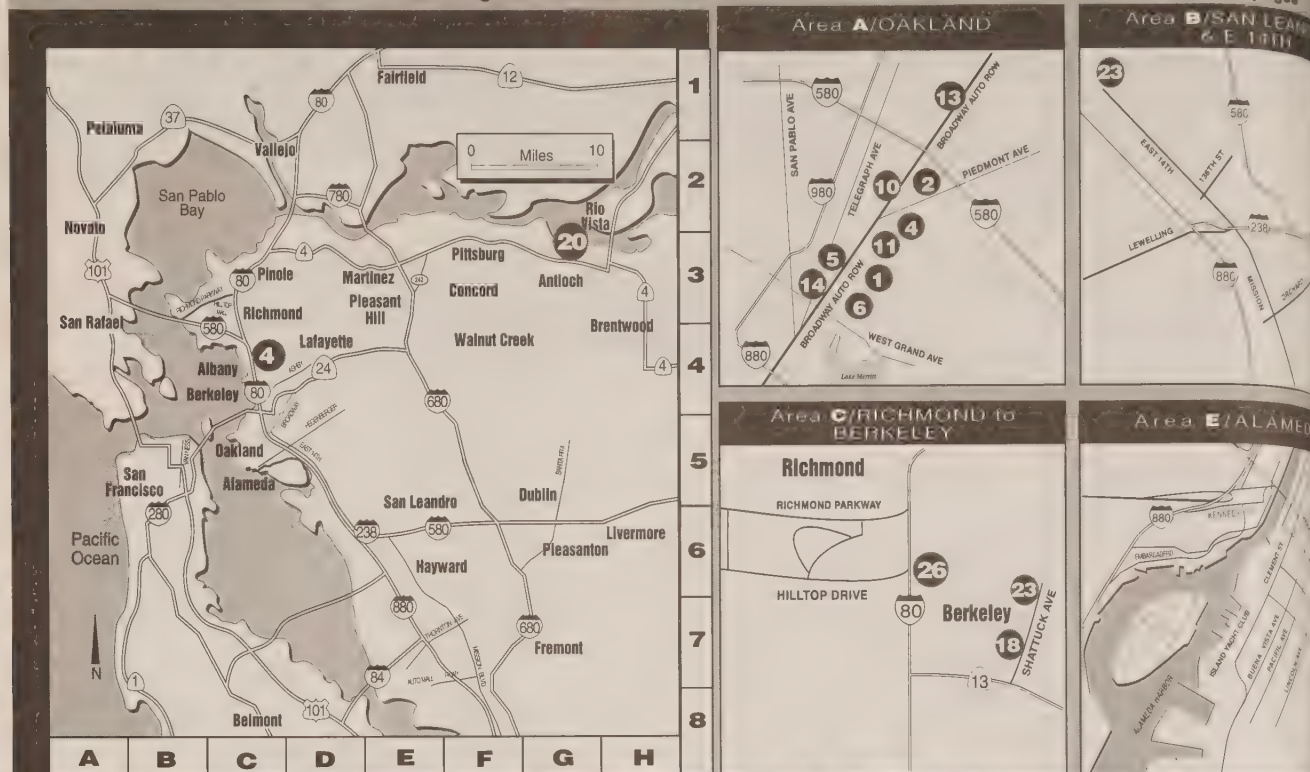


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925/679-1635

**CURRENCY** found city of Albany. Must be able to tell amount & date of last Albany check. Dept. Robin (510) 525-7300. Dead line to claim property 3 Feb 1992-2002

### 200 Schools & Instruction

**FRENCH CLASSES** "a la Parvise" Just indiv or group. Free evaluation, classes by phone. 2-1-10 in Walnut Creek or Parkside City. Catherine Brouse (510) 339-9824. Brouse@earthlink.net

**NICOLE MATH & Etc.** Center for Math & Science. 10101 1st Ave. 925/778-0868

### 203 Central Contra Costa Child Care

**AGE 0-10, 6am-6pm** Mon-Fri. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**AGE 0-10, 8-11am** Mon-Fri. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**AGE 0-10, 15 yr. exp.** Bancroft/Tracy, W.C. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

### 204 East Contra Costa County Child Care

**ANTIOCH 0-5, 6am-6pm** Mon-Fri. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**CHILD CARE 0-12** Full-time. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**DAYCARE 2 hrs. 7 days** wk. Drop-ins welcome. Antioch. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

### 205 Alameda County Child Care

**LITTLE ANGELS FAMILY DAYCARE**  
Full-time. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**PT. RT. Loving & Caring**  
Environment. Glenview. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

### 207 West Contra Costa County Child Care

**HANSEL & GRETEL** Quality Child Care. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**LITTLE ONE'S** Richmond. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**RICHMOND 0-12** Full-time. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

### 300 Pets & Services

**ADOPT A Petcat** Cat/Kitten. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**ADOPT A Petdog** Dog. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

**ADOPT A Petbird** Bird. 925/402575 (925) 825-8769

### 300 Pets & Services

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**bavarea.com/careerbuilder**

250 Help Wanted	250 Help Wanted	250 Help Wanted
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METRO ONE











# careerbuilder

bayarea.com/careerbuilder

## 250 Help Wanted

### SECRETARY

FT, or P/T, 11-5pm, 2 years exp. pref. Will train in all Sec'y. Send Resume to: Sec'y, Office Mgr. 5107 Clayton Rd. 94519

### SECURITY

#### PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

St. Mary's College, FT, any shift, non-sworn, education security guard. Has guard card or PCCB card or completion of class academy. Must be 21 yrs. old. CADL. Apply by 2/15/02.

### SECURITY SALES REPS

Earn up to \$1500 a week. Absolute Protection. 925-855-2818

### SERVICE TECH

Gas, Wood & Pellet Stove, P/T, 10-12 hrs. per week. Business. Call Bob Stove. 925-930-9282. Fax 930-7028

### GETTING

Unique Home Furnishings store seeks creative & enthusiastic P/T sales team that thrive to offer exceptional customer service. Open House 2-8 & 4-7pm. Int. 925-295-1092

### WHEN YOU GOTTA

GO TO THE NOW CHECK THE CLASSIFIEDS

### Social Services

#### Alzheimer's Unit Director

ManorCare Health Services, the leader in the delivery of long term care and dementia services, has an outstanding opportunity for an experienced professional to manage our 60-bed Alzheimer's Unit. The professional we seek will bring a bachelor's degree in social work or related field, experience in Alzheimer's care/dementia services or long-term care and a proven record of leadership that includes people management, marketing, customer service and employee training. Strong assessment skills and the ability to monitor activities programming for the unit are essential.

We offer attractive compensation, growth potential and excellent benefits that include 401(k), tuition reimbursement and more. Direct your resume to:

Attn: Human Resources  
1975 Tice Valley Blvd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
925-906-0200 • 925-906-0201 fax

## ManorCare

Health Services™

EOE

## 250 Help Wanted

### SHIPPING/RECEIVING

Berkley Co. needs motivated & organized person to handle all aspects of shipping dept. Prev. exp. nec. Able to lift 25 lbs. Spanish + English. Competitive salary. Fax 910-527-1199

### SOCIAL WORKERS

FT, Production Coach, Counselor for 10-15 employees. FT, Production Coach, Counselor for 10-15 employees. FT, Production Coach, Counselor for 10-15 employees. FT, Production Coach, Counselor for 10-15 employees.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Contra Costa County, Employment & Human Services Dept. Foster Parent Project Manager

### EHSD seeks P/T contract

manager, approx. \$20/hr. to develop, analyze & coordinate response to emergency of foster parents at the County's three receiving centers. Must have foster parent group on-site care needs, community resources, organizational & present recommendations to the Children & Family Services Director. Up to \$20K available for medical & dental insurance and references to: 165, 40 Douglas Dr., Martinez, CA 94553. Fax 925-313-1758 by 2/22/02.

### TECHNICAL

Senior Center is currently seeking a motivated, experienced P/T for SED adolescents. Base work and possible overtime. Must be licensed eligible. Fax 910-276-6028 hrs.senecenter.org www.senecenter.org

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# Shopping Plus

Friday, February 8, 2002

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## Simple recipes make ground turkey an alluring and quick weeknight choice

BY CATHY THOMAS

Every week at my house, ground turkey is the star of a dinner. It's a quick cooking choice. We eat it often, and I can't deny that it's almost gift-wrapped green in packaging most supermarkets sell has meat-case charm. My ground-turkey repertoire is a little sprucing up. Too ground gobbler ends up in the big three: Italian-style sauce, meatloaf or tacos. I repeat.

When I heard that Mark

Chinese noodle page and turns on the stove.

"Asian or Provencal or Italian flavors work well with ground turkey," he says, dropping turkey, small bit by small bit, into a sizzling skillet. "The strongest flavors aren't from the meat, but from added ingredients such as fresh ginger and soy sauce, anchovies, or cumin."

He adds green onions, ginger and garlic to the beautifully browned meat, then a little chicken broth, soy sauce and hoisin sauce. The recipe calls for ground bean sauce, but I didn't have any.

"We'll just add a little more hoisin

says the delectable dumplings are a little bit more work than most of his recipes. But Bittman doesn't work up a sweat. He's simplified them, whittling down labor as much as possible. Dumpling drudgery isn't part of his game plan.

The turkey mixture has the essential flavors (ground turkey, cabbage, ginger and soy), but the ingredient list isn't long. And rather than forming fancy-pants plates across the top of each dumpling, he simply presses the egg-smeared edges of each round wrapper together. Easy.

"Make 50 of these, two people can each eat 25... delicious," he says, downing a pan-fried dumpling (dipped in a sauce made of rice vinegar and soy sauce) with noticeable pleasure. He says you can accompany them with some stir-fried vegetables if you like.

"You can make these ahead and freeze them, or refrigerate them for a couple of days. You can cook them and use them in soups or salads."

The book says our last dish, Mushroom Cutlets With Parmesan, will take about 20-30 minutes to prepare. But we start with ground turkey, rather than boneless chicken breasts, so we eliminate the grind-in-the-processor step and shave off some preparation time.

"You can serve these on buns, or not," he says, soaking a generous amount of dried shiitake mushrooms in hot water. "They'll need plenty of pepper and garlic... and if you like, fresh dill and lemon zest would be great."

Chopped parsley would be good, too. It's nice to get green into things. It looks good and tastes good, too."

Gently combining softened and chopped mushrooms with ground turkey, along with garlic, grated Parmesan, parsley and pepper, Bittman forms patties, then fries them in olive oil in a nonstick skillet.

"Be careful not to overcook these or they will get dry, especially if you use the leanest ground turkey. When

the burger feels firm to the touch, it's done," he says.

"In my recipes, I like to start out with the simplest stuff, then explain how to make it more complex once you're enticed and see how doable it is. You could add lots of things to these — a fistful of cooked and squeezed dry spinach, or fresh or dried bread crumbs."

But indeed, you can keep it bare-bone simple if you prefer.

Either way, he'd be happy. He wants cooking to be approachable. T-shirt comfortable.

### FRESH CHINESE NOODLES WITH BROWN SAUCE

1/2 pound to 3/4 pound ground turkey

1 cup minced green onions, divided use

1 tablespoon peeled and minced fresh ginger

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1 cup chicken broth OR water

2 tablespoons ground bean sauce; see cook's notes

2 tablespoons hoisin sauce

1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 pound fresh egg OR wheat noodles

1 tablespoon Asian sesame oil

1. Begin heating large pot of water for noodles. Meanwhile, put large skillet over medium-high heat. Add turkey, crumbling to bits as you add and stirring to break up clumps. Add 1/2 cup green onions, ginger and garlic; stir. Add broth or water; stir in bean sauce, hoisin and soy. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thick, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat and keep warm.

2. Cook noodles, stirring, until tender, 3-5 minutes. Drain and toss with turkey mixture. Garnish with remaining green onions and drizzle with sesame oil. Serve.

Yield: 4 servings

Cook's notes: Ground bean sauce is sold at Asian markets. Koon Chun is one brand; it contains ground soybeans, salt, flour, sesame oil, sugar and spices.

Bittman suggests serving this dish with a green salad dressed with Soy Vinaigrette (3 tablespoons rice vinegar mixed with 3 tablespoons soy sauce, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon cayenne, 1 teaspoon Asian sesame oil and salt).

Source: "The Minimalist Cooks Dinner" by Mark Bittman (Broadway, \$26)

### GROUND TURKEY POT STICKERS

1/2 pound ground turkey

1 cup finely minced cabbage

2 tablespoons minced fresh ginger

1 tablespoon minced garlic

6 green onions, white and green parts separated, both finely minced

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons soy sauce, divided use

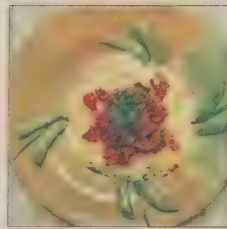
48 dumpling wrappers (see cook's notes)

1 egg, lightly beaten

Peanut or vegetable oil

1/4 cup rice OR white vinegar

1. Combine turkey, cabbage, ginger, garlic, white parts of green onions and 2 tablespoons soy sauce in bowl with 1/4 cup water. Lay wrapper on clean, dry surface and, using finger or brush, spread a bit of egg



GROUND TURKEY can be incorporated into pot stickers.

along half of circumference. Place a rounded teaspoon or so of filling in center of wrapper, fold over and seal by pinching edges together. Lay each dumpling on plate until you're ready to cook. If you want to wait a few hours, keep plate covered with plastic wrap and refrigerate until mealtime, or freeze for a few days.

2. To cook, pour about 2 tablespoons oil into large nonstick skillet, turn heat to medium-high and heat for 1 minute. Add dumplings, 1 at a time, to oil. They can touch, but should sit flat in 1 layer. Cook about 2 minutes, or until bottoms of dumplings are lightly browned. Add 1/4 cup water per dozen dumplings to skillet (in other words, if you're cooking 2 dozen dumplings at a time, add 1/2 cup water and cover; lower heat to medium and cook 3 minutes).

3. Meanwhile, make dipping sauce with 1/2 cup soy sauce, green parts of green onions and vinegar; stir.

4. After 3 minutes, uncover dumplings; raise heat again and cook 1-2 minutes, until bottoms are dark brown and crisp (and water has evaporated). Use another 2 tablespoons oil to repeat process if necessary.

Serve hot with dipping sauce.

See TURKEY, Page 2



COOKING WRITER Mark Bittman uses noodles in recipe featuring ground turkey.

best-selling cookbook author of New York Times Minimalist columnist, was in town, I invited him to my house to work some turkey magic.

He is a culinary hero to me. He's a short-on-time cook who has a non-nonsense approach to getting delectable-but-doable on the table.

His demeanor is relaxed. He is confident as he thumbs his latest book, "The Minimalist Cooks Dinner" (Broadway, \$26), and finds three recipes that feed four — formulas he would work nicely with turkey: Chinese Noodles With Brown Sauce, Mushroom Cutlets With Parsley, and Pot Stickers.

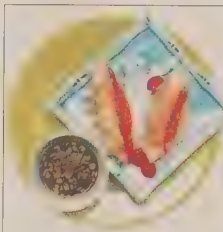
I asked for him to roll up his sleeve. Bittman is wearing an unbuttoned T-shirt. He glances at the

sauce," he says, staying cool. Bittman anticipates when readers might not have a specific ingredient, offering suggestions for substitutions next to each recipe in a "keys to success" section.

While the turkey mixture bubbles, thickening into a rich sauce, he cooks fresh noodles, a procedure that has the wiggling egg-enriched strands draining in a sink-side colander in less than three minutes. The noodles are covered with the turkey mixture, and the dish is ready in less than 15 minutes.

"Cooking no longer has to be complicated to be interesting and unusual," he says. "I strongly believe in teaching the simplest way to do things. Eventually, as people learn how to cook, they'll need cookbooks less and less."

Turning to the Pot Stickers, he



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### ONE OF COOKING WRITER

Mark Bittman's minimalist recipes is Ground Turkey with Chinese Noodles and Brown Sauce.

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# Campbell's tomato soup spice cake is easy to make

**FRANNE S. SARAZEN**  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The original recipe, Campbell's tomato soup spice cake, first appeared in one of Campbell's cookbooks in the late 1920s or early 1930s, said Jeff Bedard, a spokesman for Campbell Soup Co. The recipe has since become one of the most popular, with more than 21 varieties of soup, with Campbell's being the No. 1 seller. Today, Campbell produces more than 100 varieties of soup and tomato has been a staple of the No. 2 spot — following chicken noodle soup.

Bedard said that tomato soup spice cake is one of the top-five recipes. We can see why: it's easy to make and tastes delicious.

**Frosting:**  
2 sticks (1 cup) butter, softened  
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened  
1 tablespoon milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 package (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, allspice, baking soda, cinnamon and cloves together in large bowl of electric mixer. Mix in soup, shortening, eggs and water on low speed until well combined. Increase mixer speed to high; beat 4 minutes.

2. Pour batter into two 8-inch round greased and floured cake pans. Bake until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Cool in pans on wire rack 10 minutes. Remove from pans. Cool completely before frosting.

3. For frosting, beat butter, cream cheese, milk and vanilla in bowl of electric mixer until light and fluffy. Slowly beat in sugar until smooth and of spreading consistency. Add more milk, 1 teaspoon at a time, if needed.

Preparation time: 40 minutes.  
Cooking time: 35 minutes. Cooling time: 10 minutes. Yield: 10 servings  
Adapted from a recipe from Campbell Soup Co.



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Floral & Custom Framing

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- Mardi Gras Throw Beads: Solid colors, Reg. 99¢, 79¢
- Metal & Foil Wrap Bubble Gum Coins: 25¢
- Decorate Your Own Mask! Free instructions included. Reg. \$2.79, \$1.99
- Mardi Gras Mask: Available in gold, green & purple. Reg. 99¢, 79¢
- Valentine Decorations by Wilton. Mini icing decorations, message hearts & baking cups. Reg. \$2.19, \$1.99
- Cookie Cutter Hearts: Reg. 99¢, 2\*1.00
- Valentine Picks: Reg. 79¢, 2\*1.00
- Single Rose with Ribbon & Tag: Reg. \$4.99, \$2.99
- Fabric Needs: Foundations By The Yard: Fashion for kids, decorator designs. Reg. \$6.99 yd., \$5.49 yd.
- Easter & Calla Lily Bushes: Assorted styles. Reg. \$1.99 - \$9.99 ea., 30% Off
- Petite Daffodil & Narcissus Bushes: Assorted colors, perfect for spring. Reg. \$2.99 ea., \$1.99 ea.
- Mixed Spring Bush: Full complete & ready to pot. Reg. \$19.99, \$12.99
- Mixed Rose/Lily Bouquet: Yellow, blue & cream flowers wrapped in cellophane. Reg. \$24.99, \$18.99

## Ben Franklin Crafts VALUABLE COUPON

**40% Off**

Coupon applies to frame molding only. Valid on custom frame orders placed Feb. 8 to Feb. 12, 2002. Professionally Trained Certified Frames • Conservation Mounting Available • Specialty Mat Cuts Available • Acid Free Mats • Over 300 Colors of Mats • Cannot be combined with any other coupon, sale or discount in effect.

**COUPON 40% Off ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM**

One coupon per person per visit. Cannot be combined with any other sale or discount in effect. Limited to stock on hand. Excludes all red labeled and clearance items. All gift certificates and special order custom frames and custom floor arrangements.

VALID FEB. 8TH & 9TH, FEB. 6TH & 7TH TWO DAYS ONLY

**COUPON 50% Off ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM**

One coupon per person per visit. Cannot be combined with any other sale or discount in effect. Limited to stock on hand. Excludes all red labeled and clearance items. All gift certificates and special order custom frames and custom floor arrangements.

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**COUPON 40% Off ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM**

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**GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE**

We will meet Competitor's Advertised Price and Coupons. Just bring in Ad copy. \*Must be identical merchandise. \*Percent or Clearance sales do not apply.

Prices good at the Concord store only! Sale ends February 12, 2002.

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Open Mon.-Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5

**Your more ideas store!**

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Map showing location of Ben Franklin Crafts stores in Concord, Walnut Creek, and San Ramon.



# Los Angeles Times Cookbook Hot List

Rankings are based on a Los Angeles Times poll of national cookbook and independent book-sellers.

1. "Fast Food Nation" by Eric Schlosser
2. "Lidia's Italian-American Kitchen" by Lidia Bastianich
3. "Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution" by Robert C. Atkins
4. "Weight Watchers New Complete Cookbook"
5. "Low-Carb Meals in Minutes" by Linda Gassenheimer
6. "How to be a Domestic Goddess: Baking and the Art of Comfort Cooking" by Nigella Lawson
7. "Make It In Minutes: Easy Recipes in 15, 20 and 30 Minutes" by Weight Watchers
8. "Weight Watchers Simply the Best: 250 Prizewinning Family Recipes"
9. "Kitchen Confidential" by Anthony Bourdain
10. "How to Eat: The Pleasures and Principles of Good Food" by Nigella Lawson

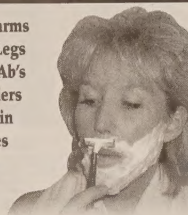
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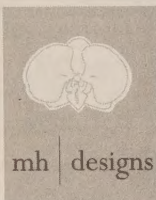
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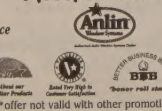
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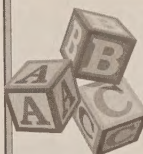


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And God shall wipe away all tears from their faces; neither shall there be any more pain.

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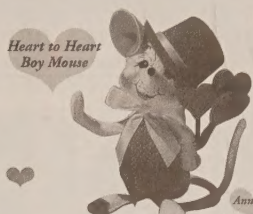
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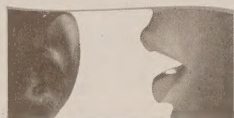
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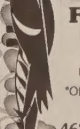


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SPECIALS

Every Day

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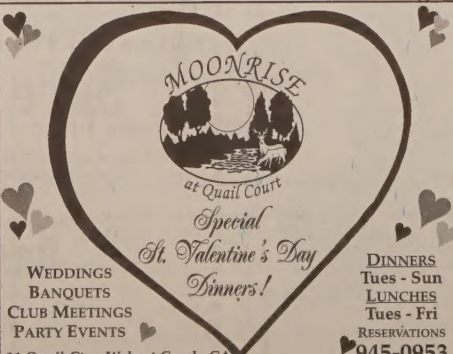
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